

**Program Director-Dr. Mark A. Merlin**

Dr. Merlin is an EMS Physician/Paramedic with over 25 years experience in pre-hospital care. He received training in Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine. Dr. Merlin is the medical director of the New Jersey EMS Task Force providing disaster preparedness for the state of New Jersey. In addition he is the Chair of the NJ Mobile Intensive Care Unit Advisory Board for the Department of Health and Senior Services providing policy and procedures for all paramedic units in the state. He has been involved with paramedic educations since 1987 and wrote several chapters in the current paramedic textbook.

Currently Dr. Merlin is the full time Emergency Medical Services director at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Dr. Merlin started New Jersey's EMS Fellowship program and created "MD-1" which is the EMS physician response program. He is actively on the "street" with his paramedics and EMTs on a daily basis.

Dr. Merlin has received numerous awards and recognition including the New Jersey American College of Emergency Physicians "EMS Physician of the year" for 2005-2006. He has been the "Clinical Instructor of the year" at both Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Morristown Memorial Hospital.

Dr Merlin has published over fifty peer-reviewed manuscripts/abstracts/book chapters. He is married with one son.

For More information about the Hospital, Medical School or EMS Department, please see our websites at:

[www.rwjuh.edu](http://www.rwjuh.edu)  
[www.rwjms.umdnj.edu](http://www.rwjms.umdnj.edu)  
[www.rwjuh-ems.org](http://www.rwjuh-ems.org)

All interested EMS/Disaster Medicine fellowship candidates should submit a CV and two letters of recommendation by December 31st to:

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Assistant Professor, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School  
EMS Critical Care Transport Director, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital  
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**ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON  
MEDICAL SCHOOL**

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

**ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

# EMS/Disaster Medicine Fellowship

at

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey  
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School  
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

**ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**



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## Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital is central New Jersey's Level 1 Trauma Center and an international leader in emergency preparedness. It is uniquely poised to play a vital role in response to a variety of mass-casualty incidents, from highway and rail accidents, to hazardous materials incidents and acts of terrorism as well as being the location of the University Center for disaster and preparedness emergency response (<http://ucdper.org>) The University Center for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response (UCDPER) is a joint initiative of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (UMDNJ-RWJMS), Rutgers-the State University of New Jersey (Rutgers), and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH). UCDPER administers and marshals the scientific, technical, clinical, and educational expertise and experience of its members to fulfill its academic and real-world missions. RWJUH is one of the largest acute care hospitals in New Jersey and serves as a significant state and regional medical resource. RWJUH is the only academic medical center and provider of tertiary (e.g., cardiac surgery) and quaternary (e.g., solid organ transplantation) healthcare services in central New Jersey.

RWJUH is also a co-founder with Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem of the International Center for Terror Medicine, whose mission is to develop and disseminate scientific information and share best practices for caring for victims of terrorism and other multi-casualty events. In addition, RWJUH physicians, nurses, and emergency medical services personnel are key to the statewide bio-terrorism task force and the New Jersey EMS Task Force which is responsible for Disaster Preparedness in New Jersey.

The hospital treats over 200,000 patients annually with 1,300 physicians on staff. It has the largest number of top doctors of all New Jersey hospitals according to New York Magazine Best Doctor listing for the New York metropolitan area.

The Emergency Department has 95,000 annual patient visits, two dedicated fast track areas and a separate 24 hour Pediatric Emergency Department. The Emergency Department is staffed by full-time academic faculty, emergency medicine residents/fellows and physician assistants. There is also a dedicated pharmacy within the Emergency Department with a hospital pharmacist present 16 hours per day. All information, including physician order entry, is stored in electronic medical record format.

The EMS system at Robert Wood Johnson has approximately 250 pre-hospital care providers including Paramedics, EMTs, RNs, dispatchers and a full-time EMS Medical Director: Dr. Merlin. The system covers the Central New Jersey Region. The offices are



UMDNJ/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School



located in an on-campus EMS building which has the first Medical Coordination Center for New Jersey and the regional dispatch center (Med Center). All pre-hospital education and Specialty Care Transport operate out of this building.

As one of the nation's leading comprehensive medical schools, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, with campuses in New Brunswick, Piscataway and Camden, is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in education, research, health care delivery and the promotion of community health for the residents of New Jersey.

With 2,400 full-time and volunteer faculty, the medical school maintains educational programs at the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels for more than 1,500 students, as well as continuing education courses for health care professionals and community education programs.

As one of eight schools of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the medical school encompasses 21 basic science and clinical departments and also integrates diverse clinical programs conducted at its 34 hospital affiliates and numerous ambulatory care sites in the region. UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School also hosts 85 centers and institutes; among them are The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the Child Health Institute of New Jersey, the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine, the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute and the Stem Cell Institute of New Jersey.

**CURRICULUM:** The following curriculum is designed to give the fellow a broad range of experience and learning opportunities in academic, administrative and practical aspects of EMS to prepare them for a leadership role in EMS upon completion of the training period.

**I. ORIENTATION-**The first month of the fellowship is spent at Orientation on campus. The fellow will rotate at Med Central, which is the EMS Dispatch Center and a Medical Command Center for New Jersey at RWJUH. The fellow will also complete a 2 day practical Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, as well as the Federal Emergency Management Courses on disaster management (ICS 100, 200, 700). During this time period the fellow will complete 100 hours of behind the wheel Emergency Training and begin Disaster Preparedness training. During this time research projects will begin.

**II. AEROMEDICAL-**The fellow will spend 2 months with the New Jersey State Police Medical helicopter and the primary 911 response for New Jersey. Twelve 12 hour day shifts will be spent on the helicopter per month. The fellow will also complete the Air Medical Physician Course at the Air Medical Physician Conference

**III. EMS PHYSICIAN RESPONSE VEHICLE-**"MD-1" is the New Jersey EMS Physician Response vehicle based out of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and created by Dr Merlin. If a physician is needed to go the scene of a Mass Casualty situation, bus accident or entrapment, MD-1 will be dispatched. It is the statewide physician response vehicle under the NJ EMS Task Force and part of the incident advance team (IAT). The fellow will have the vehicle for the entire fellowship to interact with the paramedics and gain experience in the pre-hospital environment. Currently we are responding to approximately 10-15 prehospital scenes per week.

**IV. TACTICAL EMS-**The fellow will

attend the National Counter Narcotics and Terrorisms Operations Medical Support Course (CONTOMS) as well as other federal courses. Our site provides monthly medical training to the ATF, FBI and currently is the sole tactical support for the NJ State Police. We are present at 5 high risk SWAT team events within New Jersey per month providing advanced care for federal and state police officers.

**V. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of EMS PHYSICIAN MEETING and MEDICAL DIRECTORS COURSE-** During the month of January, the EMS Physician Society (NAEMSP) holds the National EMS Physician Medical Directors Course. This is a one week course prior to the one week National meeting.

**VI. DISASTER MEDICINE-**This rotation will complement previous experience. The fellow will join the NJ EMS Task Force which is responsible for all disaster preparedness in New Jersey. The task force has approximately 30 drills per year and a team of 300 members including multiple mass casualty special operation vehicles, buses, gators, etc. The state task force and fellow also provide medical support at very large "high risk" mass gatherings which may treat hundreds of patients per event.

The fellow attends the world disaster conference as well as multiple other local disaster conference through the year

**VII. TRAUMA-**Our trauma chief, Dr Vince Gracias is an international leader in the field of trauma surgery and author of the current textbook on Acute Care Surgery. With a close working relationship and a staff of 10 trauma surgeons, the education and surgical experience gained by the fellow is tremendous. The fellow is an active member of trauma morning report and will improve clinical trauma skills from a team of national recognized members. In addition the fellow will have two months spent on trauma service where responsibilities will solely be prehospital management of patients. Additionally

expertise will be obtained from cadavers and surgical courses.

All of the three Level I trauma centers in New Jersey are associated with the University of Medicine and Dentistry. Our center trauma volume is comprised of 28 percent penetrating with a projected volume of 2000 patients.

**VIII. RESEARCH-** Significant focus is spent on research so the fellow can obtain national recognition. EVERY fellow has had an original manuscript published in an Emergency Medicine Journal. Two previous fellows were on federal grants. We have published 15 original research manuscripts in peer reviewed journal within the last four years as well as obtaining extramural grant funding. We currently have 10 research assistants and a PHD statistician. All fellowship candidates may obtain electronic copies of research papers by emailing us.

In addition, we have a research coordinator with IRB expertise

**IX. CLINICAL RESPONSIBILITIES-** The fellow will work one clinical shift per week and one weekend per month in the Department of Emergency Medicine at RWJUH and will have the rank of Instructor of Emergency Medicine at UMDNJ-RWJMS. The fellowship is approved the Graduate Medical Education Committee and each fellow has the same rights as other specialties.

**X. VACATION/Moonlighting-**The fellow will have one month paid vacation. Fellows may moonlight within the Department of Emergency Medicine at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital when not engaged in fellowship activities

**XI. MPH Option-** Please call the Department of Emergency Medicine to discuss.

**XII. Previous fellows-** EVERY previous fellow has obtained a national position in EMS specifically involved in EMS. Each is available for discussion about the program.