

**Mathieu Glassman, VMD, DACVS**  
Chief of Surgery: Friendship Surgical Specialists

Email: [FSS@friendshiphospital.com](mailto:FSS@friendshiphospital.com)  
Tel: (202) 363-7300  
Fax: (202) 363-7126

**Dirsko J.F. von Pfeil, Dr.med.vet, DVM, DACVS, DECVS, DACVSMR**  
Adjunct Professor, Michigan State University  
Staff Surgeon: Friendship Surgical Specialists

Friendship Surgical Specialists at the Friendship Hospital for Animals in Washington DC offers a Small Animal Surgical Internship

**Program Overview**

Friendship Surgical Specialists (FSS) is the specialty surgery arm of Friendship Hospital for Animals (FHA), a 24-hour, full service referral hospital, seeking a competitive and motivated individual for their one year surgical internship position.

Applicants will have the opportunity for a personal visit at the hospital and/or will be interviewed through a standardized process using Skype or similar video streaming services.

All aspects of the diagnostic workup, preoperative preparation, intraoperative judgment and surgical technique, postoperative management, and follow-up care are stressed. As a very large referral and emergency center and primary care hospital, we enjoy a wide variety of clinical problems, which allows the surgical intern an ample opportunity to observe and experience first-hand the complexities of the response of the surgical patient to disease, trauma, and operative intervention. The surgical intern will mainly be trained by two experienced board-certified surgeons, Drs. M. Glassman and D. von Pfeil, but also be working closely with numerous of the other support staff, specialist and veterinarians in the hospital. This internship is designed to provide surgical and academic training with the goal to match for a surgical residency the following year. It is an opportunity for the individual who will match with us and we are looking forward to support you and help you achieve your goals. However, we expect a great level of independence and excellent work-ethic.

**Structure**

The 5-day week is divided into 4 clinical days and one day to provide treatment for hospitalized patients and to perform research. During the first two weeks of the surgical internship, the intern rotates through all departments of FHA for orientation. Thereafter, training is provided in the surgery department only.

Responsibilities include evaluating and planning for treatment of patients and having these tasks completed prior to attending 7am anesthesia/surgery rounds. Other responsibilities encompass assisting in the operating room, participating as a member of the educational staff for rotating doctors (1<sup>st</sup> year rotating interns), and working on a research project with the goal to have a manuscript completed or close to submission prior to December 20<sup>th</sup>. In addition, it is expected that the surgical intern will give a 45min presentation to the entire staff prior to December 20<sup>th</sup>. The surgical intern is responsible for the management of all hospitalized patients on the surgery service (treatment sheets, medications), to assist with client communication (phone calls, emails), to prepare and complete referral veterinarian letters prior to finalization by the senior surgeon on the



service. Requests for surgical consultation from other clinical departments might be channeled through the surgical intern but will always be completed alongside the board-certified surgeon on the service. The surgical intern is expected to attend and to be prepared for the weekly surgery book rounds (typically on Tuesdays), surgery journal club rounds (typically Thursdays), morbidity&mortality rounds or Surg-Onc rounds (typically on Fridays). These rounds stress basic science and its clinical applicability, surgical technique, patient care and improvement of clinical decision making processes. Active participation in these rounds is expected.

Close supervision and backup by the surgical team and hospital administration are provided throughout the year. The surgical intern will be trained to understand the complex problems of critically ill patients and to perform the mandated interventions. The surgical intern will gain valuable operating room experience - initially as an assistant and then as an operating surgeon working under close senior supervision.

The intern will be on-call as primary contact for our emergency clinicians, starting the third week of employment but initially will have to always discuss all cases with the board-certified backup surgeon. The latter will initially perform and later assist during emergency surgeries until a level of clinical independence has been reached that will allow the surgical intern to take primary surgeon responsibility and operate independently. Based on our strong emergency surgery case load, the goal is to achieve this level of surgical expertise for standard surgical emergencies within the first 3-4 months of the surgical internship.

Surgical interns are expected to maintain the standards of FHA. The performance of the surgical intern is regularly evaluated by the board-certified surgeons and technical staff of the surgery department. The surgical intern is also asked to evaluate the board-certified surgeons and technical staff through a process led by the FHA administration.

### **Benefits**

Compensation is competitive and adjusted to the needs to maintain an acceptable life-style in the DC Metropolitan area. Financial compensation for emergency surgeries is ensured and will be paid as form of bonus

Paid-Time-Off will be 10 working days per year in addition to 5 days off for surgical residency interviews. There is also a CE allowance, scrub allowance, and licensing fee stipend. A license to practice in Washington D.C is required. Health insurance is provided through the hospital.

**For additional information regarding the terms, conditions, and benefits of appointment, contact Kieran Mara, COO at Friendship Hospital for Animals:**

[kmara@friendshiphospital.com](mailto:kmara@friendshiphospital.com)

