The Queen’s University training program in general surgery provides a comprehensive educational experience for our residents resulting in well-rounded competent surgeons that are ready for independent practice. The training program is characterized by close working relationships between residents and attending staff. These relationships are built on repeated exposures on every CTU during a five year residency. This allows for appropriate graded responsibilities as the resident develops strong clinical decision making and proficient technical skills.

Our training program is currently evolving towards competency by design as laid out by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. Our first year residents are the first cohort to transition to a competency based medical education. The Royal College Surgical Foundation EPAs form the core of the training requirements and general surgical EPAs add the specialty specific content. The remaining residents (second year to fifth year residents) will continue with the traditional rotation based training using the objectives outlined the newly developed Royal College Objectives of Training for General surgery released in May 2017. The clinical teaching units (CTUs) for general surgery have been recently realigned to best achieve these objectives. Currently there are there seven CTUs (6 in Kingston and 1 in Oshawa) covering the following areas within general surgery.

CTU 1: Colorectal surgery, endoscopy, community surgery (hernias)
CTU 2: Hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery, spleen, adrenal, endoscopy
CTU 3: Surgical oncology (breast, sarcoma, gastric, colorectal), Endocrine Surgery (thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal), Pediatric General Surgery
CTU 4: Acute care surgery, trauma
CTU 5: Upper GI (esophageal cancer), Thoracic Surgery, Head & Neck Surgery
CTU 6: Upper GI (benign), Bariatrics, upper endoscopy
Oshawa: Community general surgery, endoscopy

These rotations are supplemented by off service rotations on Vascular Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Emergency Medicine, ICU, Anaesthesia, Radiology, and Gastroenterology. These rotations with the exception of Gastroenterology are performed in the first two years of residency (Foundations of Discipline). These rotations help provide a broad base of knowledge and skills especially important for those residents interested in a full or extended scope of practice in General Surgery.

A robust academic curriculum including a renewed focus on simulation (including animal’s labs and a newly developed upper GI surgery curriculum) and covering surgery specific CANMED roles is provided. In addition there are QCARE sessions developed through the postgraduate education office to help provide workshops and seminars in the CANMED domains common to all residency programs. In regards to scholarly activities courses are provided to help residents become effective teachers and significant infrastructure and support has been put into place to help residents develop the knowledge and skills to complete a mandatory research project.

Overall the program hopes to develop conscientious, competent general surgeons who are ready to enter practice or go on to develop further skills in a fellowship program.