

# Specialty Advising: Neurosurgery

## Dr. Larry Chin, Chair & Specialty Advisor

Updated May 2017

### Advising Efforts

#### First and Second Year Students

The AANS Medical Student Chapter sponsors events throughout the year to introduce the specialty. Faculty and residents are present to answer questions. Shadowing opportunities are available as well.

#### Third and Fourth Year Students

Neurosurgery faculty participate in College of Medicine events to discuss residency issues. Interested students are strongly encouraged to participate in the AANS Medical Student Chapter for further interaction with faculty and residents. Dr. Chin or any of the faculty are available to serve as a Specialty Advisor.

### Residency Planning Q & A

To be considered for this specialty, what is the Step 1 score range?	Above the 80th percentile.
Do students need to be at the top of the class to be competitive in this specialty?	Yes
Is research a strong consideration for candidacy in this specialty?	In some programs it is essential. In general, it is a strong consideration.
How important are away electives? Acting Internships?	Very, gives the program a chance to see the candidate in action.
If students did well on Step 1, should they try to take Step 2 before Rank Order Lists are due?	They can wait. Step 2 is not critical, but may be helpful if Step 1 scores were low.
Should letters of recommendations all come from this specialty or should also have others?	Best to come from the specialty. Letters from other specialties do not carry as much weight.
What do you want students to know about your program in particular	The Upstate neurosurgery program is a well balanced program offering outstanding clinical training with a strong emphasis on research with 21 months of research elective built into the residency. We seek to produce expert clinicians with academic leadership capability.
Does your specialty REQUIRE a Chair's letter?	No, but it is very unusual to not have one.