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<td>Robotic Surgery</td>
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Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery
University of Michigan
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Accreditation Period: July 2013 – June 30, 2017

MIGS FACULTY

SAWSAN AS-SANIE, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor
Program Director

COURTNEY LIM, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor
Associate Program Director

BETHANY SKINNER, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor
MIGS Faculty

2-YEAR PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION
The comprehensive goal of the University of Michigan Minimally Invasive Surgery fellowship program is to train academic fellows who are outstanding clinicians, teachers, and research contributors. The clinical educational objective of the two year training program is to provide fellows with the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to independently manage complex gynecologic patients that may benefit from advanced endoscopic procedures. Specific educational goals for each fellow include development of the following:

1. Sufficient understanding, experience, and proficiency to perform advanced endoscopic, hysteroscopic, abdominal and vaginal surgery for complex, benign gynecologic conditions. These conditions include uterine fibroids, advanced endometriosis, benign ovarian neoplasms, ovarian remnants and chronic pelvic pain.
2. To evaluate and appropriately select the appropriate medical and/or surgical treatment plan for women presenting with complex, benign gynecologic conditions such as abnormal uterine bleeding, symptomatic uterine fibroids, chronic pelvic pain and/or endometriosis.

In addition, each fellow will be provided resources and experience to develop academic skills. Specific objectives for the teaching and research curriculum include the following:

1. Ability to use appropriate methods and educational aids to teach medical students, residents, and allied health care professionals in clinical or classroom environments.
2. Sufficient understanding and proficiency to complete clinical and/or health-services research projects, in addition to development of collaborative skills with others that foster ongoing research activities.
3. Ability to write scientific articles, and grant applications and to contribute in an academic setting.
Faculty

The MIGS clinical division and fellowship training program is under the direction of Sawsan (Suzie) As-Sanie, MD, who joined the faculty at the University of Michigan in August 2005. Dr. As-Sanie is an Assistant Professor and assumed the role of Fellowship Director in July 2009. She is also the director of the Chronic Pelvic Pain Program and the University of Michigan Endometriosis Center. Dr. As-Sanie received her medical degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1998 and completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at MetroHealth Medical Center and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in 2002. Following residency, she completed a three year clinical and research fellowship in Advanced Laparoscopy and Chronic Pelvic Pain at the University of North Carolina, under the mentorship of Dr. John Steege. During this time, she also received her MPH in epidemiology. In addition to her busy clinical practice in minimally invasive gynecology, endometriosis and chronic pelvic pain, Dr. As-Sanie maintains and active clinical research program. Her research interests are aimed at defining the underlying neurobiological mechanism of chronic pelvic pain disorders, with a focus on endometriosis-associated pelvic pain. She is also actively engaged in studies evaluating predictors of acute and chronic postsurgical pain.

Dr. Bethany Skinner joined the University of Michigan faculty as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Minimally Invasive Surgery in August 2011. She received her medical degree from Case Western Reserve University and completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Colorado in 2009. Following residency, Dr. Skinner completed her two year fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery at Indiana University under the mentorship of Dr. Gregory Raff. Dr. Skinner brings numerous strengths to the program, including a strong interest in vaginal surgery and surgical education.

Dr. Courtney Lim joined the University of Michigan Minimally Invasive faculty in July of 2014. Dr. Lim received her medical degree from University of Michigan and went on to Northwestern University to complete her residency in obstetrics and gynecology. Upon completion of her residency, Dr. Lim returned to University of Michigan and completed Michigan’s two year fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery. Dr. Lim is now the Assistant Fellowship Director and brings numerous strengths to the program, including a strong interest in patient education in medical decision-making.

Fellowship Overview

The University of Michigan Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery was established in 2003, and was first accredited by the AAGL/SRS in 2005. Fellows actively participate in all aspects of inpatient and outpatient care of patients seen by the MIS faculty. This includes the evaluation, planning, treatment and follow-up of patients seen in the Minimally Invasive Surgery Referral Clinic, the University of Michigan Endometriosis Center, and the Pelvic Pain Consultative Clinic. Through this experience, fellows will become proficient in the minimally invasive approach to common gynecologic complaints such as abnormal uterine bleeding, uterine fibroids, and adnexal masses. Fellows will also gain valuable and extensive experience in the multi-system and multidisciplinary approach to the evaluation of chronic pelvic pain and endometriosis. Fellows will spend approximately 1 – 1.5 days in clinic.

The surgical experience during this fellowship is “hands-on”, and fellows actively participate in all surgical cases performed by the MIS faculty. Types of procedures that a fellow is expected to master include the following: supracervical and total laparoscopic hysterectomy, robot-assisted hysterectomy, robotic myomectomy, laparoscopic myomectomy, laparoscopic excision of advanced endometriosis, laparoscopic ovarian cystectomy and adnexitomy, laparoscopic and robotic trachelectomy, lysis of adhesions, excision of ovarian remnants, and advanced operative hysteroscopy with resection of submucosal fibroids, uterine septum, and intrauterine adhesions. Minilaparotomy for abdominal myomectomy and hysterectomy, as well as vaginal hysterectomy are also emphasized. Fellows will spend approximately 2-2 ½ days in the operating room, depending on their rotation schedule. The MIS faculty also supervise an outpatient office procedure clinic, with a focus on office hysteroscopy, office diagnostic and operative hysteroscopy, and saline-infusion sonohysterography. This clinic is held weekly.
In addition to time spent in the operating room, fellows will further refine their skills in surgical simulation labs and cadaver labs done jointly with GYN oncology and urogynecology.

**Off-Service Rotations and Electives**
All MIS fellows at the University of Michigan will have the opportunity to spend one month per year on the urogynecology service and the gynecologic oncology service at The University of Michigan. The MIS fellow will be fully integrated into these off-service rotations. During these rotations, the MIS fellow will have the opportunity to participate in the medical and surgical care of patients on these services. In doing so, MIS fellows will gain important exposure and experience in the preoperative evaluation of urinary and fecal incontinence, urogenital prolapse, as well as the screening and evaluation of gynecologic malignancies. The fellows will also operate with each service, and will gain valuable experience in prolapse and incontinence procedures, as well as radical pelvic surgery and retroperitoneal dissection, including laparoscopic and robotic GYN cancer staging procedures.

**Educational Objectives:**
Over the course of the fellowship, all fellows will participate in weekly didactic sessions. Reading material on a clinical topic is assigned to the fellows and is supervised by the MIS faculty. Particular attention will be given to areas of controversy and new research. Topics to be discussed will closely follow the AAGL FMIGS educational objectives and will utilize the most recent literature and/or textbooks, including but not limited to the AAGL FMIGS reading list:

1. Abdominal and pelvic anatomy
2. Menstrual cycle physiology
3. Abnormal uterine bleeding
4. Uterine fibroids
5. Endometriosis
6. Adnexal pathology
7. Acute pelvic pain
8. Chronic pelvic pain
9. Congenital anomalies of the urogenital tract
10. Risk reducing surgeries
11. Surgery in special populations
12. Pelvic floor disorders
13. Perioperative management
14. Diagnosis and management of surgical complications
15. Principles of energy sources
16. Essentials of hysteroscopy
17. Essentials of laparoscopy
18. Essentials of robotic surgery
19. Essentials of vaginal surgery
20. Tissue retrieval and extraction
21. Adnexal surgery
22. Surgical treatment of congenital anomalies of the reproductive tract
23. Hysterectomy
24. Myomectomy
25. Retroperitoneal dissection
26. Surgical treatment of pelvic organ prolapse and incontinence
27. Urinary Tract Surgery
28. Gastrointestinal surgery
29. Intraoperative identification and management of visceral injuries and bleeding
30. Professionalism, ethics, accountability and communication
### Conference Schedule

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Conference</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 1700-1800</td>
<td>Ob-Gyn Department M&amp;M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 0800-0900</td>
<td>MIS Preop &amp; Didactic Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 0730-0830</td>
<td>Grand Rounds</td>
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### Description of Conferences:

**Ob-GYN Department M&M Conference:** This department-wide morbidity and mortality conference is presented by the senior resident on each service: Obstetrics, Benign Gynecology (including Urogynecology), GYN Oncology, and Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility.

**MIS Preop & Didactic Conference:** The MIS division will meet weekly to review the planned surgical procedures for the following week. This is used as an opportunity to review the appropriate preoperative evaluation of minimally invasive surgery procedures, review MRI and other imaging results, and any issues related to planning the surgical procedure. Fellows will also review and discuss patients seen in their continuity clinics. This will include a review of all new pelvic pain/endometriosis patients scheduled in the next week, as well as any MIS patients that may require surgery. Following discussion of the preop list, the remainder of the session will be dedicated to didactics. Two sessions each month will be dedicated to review of a clinical topic outlined in the fellowship educational objectives. One session each month will be dedicated to discussing ongoing or planned research studies, presentations, and manuscripts. One session per month will be a joint research conference with the Health Service Research Group. MIS/CPP faculty and fellows will participate in presenting these didactic sessions.

**Ob-GYN Department Grand Rounds:** This department-wide Grand Rounds is an excellent source of continuing medical education, covering a wide variety of topics relevant to obstetricians and gynecologists.

### Teaching by Fellows

The University of Michigan is recognized as one of the premier residency programs in obstetrics and gynecology in the United States and MIS fellows play an integral role in the education of residents and medical students within the department. One resident (PGY3 or PGY4) and one or more medical students are assigned to the division for each rotation. Residents and medical students function as important members of the health care team under the direction of the MIS fellows. In addition to teaching on daily work rounds and in the operating room, fellows are asked to prepare and deliver formal lectures and seminars for the resident core curriculum and to lead discussion at department journal clubs.

### Clinical Research

There is a core of knowledge and skills common to all areas of clinical research that should form the foundation of the well-trained, independent clinical researcher. There are numerous opportunities to receive formal training and mentorship in clinical research. Clinical research activities may include participation in institutional studies and NIH-funded projects. An important ancillary goal of the two years of clinical training is to provide a framework in which the fellow can learn to balance the demands of clinical care with those of scholarly pursuits, including ongoing clinical research and manuscript preparation.

All MIGS fellows will participate in a 3 week intense program in clinical epidemiology and biostatistics in July of their first year. This program is fully funded by the UM OBGYN department. Additional information for this program can be found here: [http://www.sph.umich.edu/epid/GSS/courses/3week.html](http://www.sph.umich.edu/epid/GSS/courses/3week.html).

Additionally, all clinical fellows within our department have the opportunity to attend the Exxcellence in Clinical Research course led by Drs. David Grimes and Kenneth Schulz. An introduction to epidemiology, research
methods and data analysis is covered in a week-long intensive format. Every fellow that has attended has found it to be an excellent learning opportunity. This opportunity is fully funded by the department.

Within the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Fellowship Advisory Committee has also developed a biannual Common Fellowship Curriculum. These are ½ day seminars that provide all obgyn fellows educational seminars in numerous topics relevant to clinical research and academic leadership. Topics include research design and implementation, identifying funding opportunities, manuscript timelines and preparation, how to be an effective teacher, and employment contracts.

**Research Opportunities within the Minimally Invasive Surgery Program:**

Examples of research areas:
- The role of the central nervous system in endometriosis-associated chronic pelvic pain
- Neurobiological predictors of persistent pelvic pain in women undergoing hysterectomy for chronic pelvic pain
- Predictors of acute and chronic post-surgical pain
- Surgical simulation and methods of teaching laparoscopy in gynecologic surgery
- Patient knowledge and decision making in minimally invasive surgery

Under the supervision of Dr. As-Sanie, fellows will be expected to complete 1 independent research projects in collaboration with the MIS faculty and/or other faculty within the University of Michigan. These projects should result in presentation at a national meeting and at least one publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Research time will be allocated on a weekly basis according to the service month, and semi-weekly MIS division research meetings will serve as the forum to discuss and review the progress of faculty and fellow projects. Completion of one independent research project with manuscript ready for submission to a peer-reviewed journal is required for successful graduation from this program.