WOMEN’S SURGERY & AESTHETICS CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

ROBERT S. FURR, MD, FACOG
Program Director

JESSICA SCOTCHIE, MD
Associate Program Director

MITCH DIZON, MD, MSCR, FACOG
Associate Program Director

FACULTY

TWO YEAR PROGRAM
### 2-Year Program

#### Optional Degrees:
- [ ] MPH
- [ ] MBA
- [ ] MS
- [ ] Other: None

#### Number of Faculty:
- GYN Faculty: 2
- UROGYN Faculty: 2
- REI Faculty: 3
- ONCOLOGY Faculty: 3
- GU Faculty: 1
- General Surgery Faculty: 1
- Colorectal Faculty: 2

#### Residency Program Affiliation:
- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

#### Computer Simulation Center:
- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

#### Training Labs:
- [ ] Cadaver lab
- [ ] Animal Lab
- [ ] None
- [x] Dry Lab
- [ ] Robotics

#### Office Surgery:
- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

#### Contract/Agreement Letter:
- [ ] Stipend PGY-5 or 6: Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Resident Teaching: Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Benefit Package: Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] OB obligation: Yes
- [ ] No
  - If yes, please describe obligation.
- [ ] Junior Faculty: Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Attending Privileges: Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Moonlighting: Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Non-compete clause: Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Malpractice: Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Meeting support: Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Malpractice tail coverage: Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Other coverage obligations- specify: None

#### Accept J1 & H1Visa applicants:
- [ ] Yes
- [x] No

#### Dedicated Research Hours:
- Hours/week: 4
- Hours/month: 16

#### Protected Academic:
- Hours/week: 2
- Hours/month: 8

#### Clinical Focus/Special Interest:
- [x] Reproductive Surgery
- [ ] Oncology
- [ ] Endometriosis/Pelvic Pain
- [ ] Pelvic Reconstruction
- [x] Robotic Surgery
- [ ] Pediatric/Adolescent
- [x] Hysteroscopic Surgery
- [ ] Other: Colorectal surgery
Description of Program:

The AAGL Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery in Chattanooga, TN was established by Dr. C.Y. Liu in 1997, and it is the oldest continuous gynecologic endoscopic fellowship program in the United States. Our primary goal is to train those who will provide top quality patient care and education, and who will be leaders and innovators in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery and in treatment of advanced gynecologic disorders such as pelvic pain, endometriosis, uterine fibroids, pelvic organ prolapse, urinary incontinence, and menopausal care. Women’s Surgery Center, the University of Tennessee College of Medicine-Chattanooga, and its affiliate organizations propose that to become a proficient minimally invasive surgeon, a provider must have:

- A broad understanding of advanced gynecologic disorders, especially ones that may require surgical intervention
- Extensive surgical and clinical expertise that focus not only on laparoscopic surgery, but also on advanced pelvic and vaginal surgery and diagnostic and operative hysteroscopy
- An excellent understanding of research methodology and evidence-based practice principles.

By participating in academic and community-based referral practices, the MIGS Fellows receive broad exposure in medical and surgical management of complex gynecologic disorders. Participation in programs offered by The University of Tennessee College of Medicine-Chattanooga provides exposure to a rich academic environment and it is an ideal setting to provide additional training for post-graduate fellows seeking clinical and academic expertise in these fields. Collectively, we perform over 1000 gynecologic surgeries per year, 74% of these cases are minimally invasive, 25% are vaginal, and 1% are abdominal. Many of our cases are oncologic. In our gynecology practice alone, the Fellow will see approximately 770 new patients and 2400 return visits annually. Our Faculty include fellowship-trained specialists in the following areas:

- Minimally invasive (laparoscopic and robotic) gynecologic surgery for complex endometriosis, pelvic floor reconstruction and management of uterine fibroids.
- Gynecologic Oncology
- Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery
- Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility
- Colorectal Surgery

Our surgeons’ diverse experience in advanced MIGS procedures affords us the opportunity to treat complicated cases. As a result, fellows in this training program receive an exceptional level of laparoscopic and gynecologic training. Graduating fellows will be proficient in all aspects of minimally invasive gynecologic surgery, including:

- Complicated hysterectomies (total and subtotal)
- Conservative and definitive surgery for all stages of endometriosis
- Techniques for pelvic floor reconstruction (with and without the use of mesh grafts)
- Hysteroscopy (operative and diagnostic)
• Urologic surgery (ureteral repair/anastomosis and incontinence procedures)
• Robotic surgery

Furthermore, this is a clinically broad fellowship that allows post-graduate trainees to gain extensive experience in a variety of advanced gynecologic disorders such as chronic pelvic pain disorders (e.g. endometriosis, irritable bowel syndrome, interstitial cystitis), vulvovaginal disorders (e.g. vestibulitis, vulvar dermatoses, vulvodynia, chronic vaginitis). This fellowship also places significant emphasis on academics by promoting fellow research, publication, and opportunity for direct one-on-one teaching of residents. Each fellow is required to complete a research project each year, present at national meetings, and finalize a manuscript for publication by the end of the second year of the fellowship.

Fellows are required to attend regular didactic core lectures and present a “MIGS Lecture Series” to the Residents and Faculty of the Department. Overall, each fellow will devote approximately 80% of their time to clinical/surgical duties and 20% to research and teaching projects.

Outline of the Current Curriculum:

**Clinic** – Clinics are held two half days per week and focus on pelvic pain management with Dr. Dizon and urogynecology and endometriosis with Dr. Furr.

**Surgery** – The fellowship provides extensive experience in laparoscopic and robotic surgery. The surgery schedule varies according to the surgical work load of Faculty. Fellows participate as co-surgeon to the attending faculty and work in the operating room 4 days per week. Under close supervision and direction of faculty, the fellow has the opportunity to participate in, on average, 10 major laparoscopic/robotic and multiple minor procedures per week. It is expected that the Fellow complete the requirements for da Vinci certification during their first year of fellowship.

**Journal Club** – Fellows actively participate a journal club organized by the Dept. of OB/GYN on a regular basis.

**Hospital Rounds** – Fellows are expected to make daily hospital rounds, write detailed progress notes in the EMR and manage post-operative patients under the supervision of the Faculty.

**Research Projects** – There is an intense focus on research in our program. Fellows are required to select two research projects within the first three months of their fellowship. The research projects are to be approved by Faculty and are conducted under the supervision of individual Faculty preceptors. Every Fellow is required to submit and present their research papers/video in the Annual Scientific Meeting of the AAGL and/or the ASRM. The Fellows are also required to complete an IRB approved peer review article each year for publication. Fellows are expected to complete the University of Tennessee Certificate in Clinical Research Program during the first year of their fellowship. Fellows have the unique opportunity for “bench research” as well under the mentorship of Dr. Sean Richards. Dr. Richards is a renowned researcher and has expressed great interest in mentoring the MIGS Fellows and allowing them full access to his lab. His credentials can be found at: [https://www.utc.edu/biology-geology-environmental-science/profiles/faculty/cbj246.php](https://www.utc.edu/biology-geology-environmental-science/profiles/faculty/cbj246.php).
**Teaching and Call Duty Responsibilities** – Fellows frequently interact with residents during surgical cases and at The University of Tennessee College of Medicine-Chattanooga, Department of Ob/Gyn. Fellows are expected to serve as teachers and to promote resident education in a positive and thorough manner. Each Fellow is expected to present 5 resident/faculty lectures per year. During the first quarter of their fellowship, the fellows will attend an approved Biostatistics and Research Methodology course. There is no obstetrical call requirement, however, each month, fellows will participate in the University GYN unattached call schedule. Fellows receive first-call on all Women’s Surgery Center patients, including emergency room and inpatient consultation.

**Mentorship, Evaluation and Career Development** - This program will focus intensely on career development and practice management through regular mentorship and evaluation meetings. Each Fellow will be scheduled to meet with Faculty preceptors on a bi-monthly basis. Fellows will also be evaluated by all fellowship faculty members on a quarterly basis. Each evaluation will be reviewed with the trainee. Fellows will have the opportunity to discuss progress, problems or future plans with Faculty. Any problems will be addressed in a formal manner with an inquiry, discussion and plan of action that is agreed upon by the Faculty member and the Fellow. When agreement cannot be reached, help will be obtained first from the program director and lastly from the fellowship grievance committee.

**Application Requirements and Selection Process**
All applications must be made through the AAGL website (see [http://www.aagl.org/applications](http://www.aagl.org/applications)) and must be complete before an applicant can be offered an interview.

Once an applicant is determined to have met the eligibility criteria, the program director may invite them for an interview. The interview day begins at 7:00 am. We also invite all applicants to dinner with the current fellows and faculty on the night prior to their interview date. Our program participates in the AAGL Fellowship Match Program through the NRMP.