



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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FACULTY

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2-YEAR PROGRAM

Description

The fellowship program in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center is a comprehensive two-year program incorporating clinical, research, and educational activities. The fellow will benefit from the high surgical volume of thirteen (13) active surgeons whose collective experience include a full spectrum of laparoscopic, hysteroscopic, vaginal, and other minimally invasive procedures spanning the clinical subspecialties of infertility, urogynecology, gynecologic oncology and general gynecology. Additionally, the fellow will complete formal four week rotations in both Urogynecology and Gynecologic Oncology. Although there is certainly an expectation that the fellow will become proficient in a defined set of procedures and techniques, as outlined by the AAGL curriculum, the overall focus is on training the fellow to approach common gynecologic surgical problems using the principles of minimally invasive surgery drawing from all appropriate tools and techniques to solve clinical problems. The fellow can expect to emerge fully trained and experienced in the broad spectrum of traditional laparoscopy, operative hysteroscopy, vaginal surgery and robotics. Clinically, the fellow will graduate competent in all educational objectives outlined by FMIGS, including a proficiency in evidence-based evaluation and management of pelvic pain.

Didactics and Experiential Learning Activities

Participation in departmental grand rounds, didactic educational programs, and weekly conferences is expected. The fellow will be expected to present at least one grand rounds, and at least one lecture to residents and/or medical students addressing a topic of interest to be determined. The gynecology division has weekly teaching conferences for medical students and residents rotating on the service. Additionally, there is a monthly journal club geared specifically for faculty and fellows wherein key publications and topics are discussed. These are meant to supplement the “core reading” base outlined by the AAGL and listed on that website, which are required. Weekly participation in training activities in the Center for Experiential Learning and Assessment (CELA) simulation laboratory is available. Fellows are expected to assist in guiding residents through these programmed activities. Finally, all fellows are expected to complete coursework in basic statistics and epidemiology (up to 8 hours of credit). Protected time and financial support is provided for completion of this coursework. Additional coursework is available, depending on the specific interests and needs of the fellow. Access to Vanderbilt’s Experimental Surgery Suite is available to the fellow for cadaver dissection and surgical tutorials (animal) as needed and desired.

Clinical Facilities

Surgical experience will be obtained at four sites:

1. Vanderbilt University Medical Center Hospital
2. Cool Springs Surgery Center - a freestanding ambulatory surgical center located in the same building as our satellite clinic in Cool Springs
3. Vanderbilt Center for Women’s Health Clinic at One Hundred Oaks, a 30,000 sq ft ambulatory clinic facility that contains two fully equipped procedure rooms (hysteroscopy, cystoscopy, hysteroscopic sterilization, endometrial ablation, and other minor gynecologic procedures), a urodynamics suite, and an ultrasound unit. The fellow will participate in both resident-based clinics and an active private gynecologic consultative service
4. Women’s Health Center Clinic at Cool Springs, a 6,000 sq ft ambulatory clinic facility that contains identical resources and focus as the One Hundred Oaks clinical facility

Research and Scholarly Activities

To complete the required research project, fellows may take advantage of the many clinical or basic research opportunities ongoing in the division. Additionally, the project may be uniquely designed by the fellow with faculty supervision. It is expected that the fellow will publish the results of at least one research project in an appropriate journal during the course of fellowship training. Our typical fellow will participate to varying degrees in 2-8 projects during the fellowship interval. A variety of resources are available to the fellow in designing and implementing research projects, including a departmental research core for assistance with IRB, contracting, grant and manuscript writing, statistical services, and research nurse coordinator services. Small grant funding (a few thousand dollars) is available through department and university sources for focused projects. The department contains a vibrant basic research division that allows the fellow to access biochemical and molecular technologies for conduct of projects as needed.

Summary

Upon completion of this program, the fellow will be competent in a full spectrum of endoscopic surgical techniques and qualified to serve as a consultant in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery in an academic or private setting.