



FELLOWSHIP IN MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY AND ADVANCED GYNECOLOGY (FMIGS-AG)

ORLANDO VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM ORLANDO, FLORIDA

*Accredited by the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists
Accreditation Period: 2020-2024*

FACULTY



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2-YEAR PROGRAM Program Description:

Minimally invasive surgery (MIS) including laparoscopy, robotics, or vaginal surgery, has become standard in gynecologic practice; useful in a variety of ways ranging from a diagnostic tool to an interventional surgical tool even in cases of advanced gynecologic disease. MIS boasts many advantages including the ability to diagnose visceral pathology, provide surgical treatment with minimally invasive techniques if necessary, and shorter hospital stay while avoiding the morbidity of a laparotomy. This fellowship aims to train the next generation of Gynecologic MIS surgeons who will:



- have a broad understanding of advanced gynecologic disorders, especially ones that often end in a surgical intervention
- attain extensive surgical and clinical expertise that focuses not only on laparoscopic surgery but also on advanced abdominal and vaginal surgery
- achieve an in depth understanding of research methodology and evidence-based practice principles
- gain additional expertise in healthcare related problems specific to women veterans.



Our primary goal is to train those who will: 1) provide excellent patient care and education, and 2) be leaders in gynecologic MIS and in treatment of advanced gynecologic disorders such as pelvic pain, endometriosis, vulvovaginal dermatoses, pelvic organ prolapse and menopausal care. Our fellowship will be based at the Orlando VA Healthcare System (OVAHCS), thus our most important mission will be train gynecologic surgeons who will also be able to take care of a very underserved segment of the population: women veterans.

OVAHCS is the nation's 4th largest VA Medical Center providing world-class healthcare for more than 120,791 unique VA eligible beneficiaries within the central Florida area. The center is situated on a 65-acre campus that encompasses a 1.2 million square feet facility with 134-inpatient beds, a 120-bed Community Living Center (CLC) and a 60-bed Residential Rehabilitation Program. OVAHCS also provides outpatient clinical services including primary care, mental health, audiology, neurology, ophthalmology, occupational health, pathology, pharmacy, podiatry, cardiology, nephrology, dermatology, gastroenterology, infectious diseases, social work, physical rehabilitation, internal medicine, endocrinology, surgery, urology, orthopedics, women's health, and advanced gynecology. The facility is equipped with a fully



functional Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, Operating Rooms, and a Simulation Learning Education and Research Network (SimLEARN) center.

OVAHCS is part of Lake Nona 'Medical City,' a community that includes the University of Central Florida (UCF) College of Medicine and Nemours Children's Hospital. Many of our physicians have affiliated appointments at the Medical College and OVAHCS provides residency training for many UCF departments such as primary care, ophthalmology, podiatry, surgery, and gynecology. In 2021 OVAHCS provided care for more than 14,000 women Veterans and women's specific services were used by more than 13,000 Veterans. The Women's Health Program provides a wide range of gender-specific services from comprehensive annual health-maintenance that includes cervical and breast cancer screenings, to management of advanced gynecologic disorders such as abnormal menstrual bleeding, chronic pelvic pain, endometriosis, vulvodynia, incontinence, and pelvic organ prolapse. The program is committed to providing comprehensive, equitable care to all Veterans across the sexuality spectrum including LGBTQ, trans-gender and gender non-conforming individuals.

SimLEARN provides additional technological advances for simulation training which will be an essential resource for fellow training. Key to this collaborative educational opportunity is that UCF and SimLEARN are co-located on the same campus as OVAHCS, thus fellows will have access to educational resources, technology and faculty from all three institutions.

This program is a **24-month fellowship**. Applicants will be accepted through the standardized [AAGL fellowship application](#) process which includes formal interviews, evaluation, and acceptance through the match. Fellow applications will be screened, and applicants will be asked to first undergo a web interview with Dr. Lamvu. Final applicants will be asked to visit our institution for one day where they will undergo face-to-face interviews with the director, assistant director, faculty, and other fellows. During this visit, they will tour our facility and be given a chance to evaluate our program. Once the interview process is complete, the applicant names will be placed in a rank list submitted to the AAGL for the final match. The new fellow will be contacted by the director to confirm acceptance. After confirmation of acceptance, a letter of intent and other required documents will be finalized within 3 months and according to VA hiring and credentialing regulations.

Fellows will be expected to complete at least 22/24 months of training. After this time, graduating fellows will be proficient in all aspects of gynecologic laparoscopic surgery, including complicated hysterectomies (both supra-cervical and total), both conservative and definitive surgery for advanced stages of endometriosis, and robotic surgery (our robot purchase is approved for fiscal year 2018). In addition, 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), pelvic organ prolapse, vulvovaginal disorders (e.g., vestibulitis, vulvar dermatoses, vulvodynia, chronic vaginitis) and much more. Pain management will be taught in closely mentored clinical settings by Dr. Lamvu and Dr. Carrillo while urogynecology will be taught by Dr. Feranec. Fellows will rotate through the urogynecology clinic, the pelvic pain clinic and they will also see general gynecology



patients. In addition, fellows will have dedicated operating room time as well as time protected for research and education activities. Fellows will spend approximately 70% of their time in clinical / surgical duties and 30% in educational and research activities. Post-graduate trainees will have the opportunity to interact with programs including, Urology, Colorectal, and General Surgery. The training schedule will be based on a set curriculum however, it will also be tailored each year to the educational and surgical training needs of each fellow.



This fellowship will place emphasis on academics by promoting fellow research, publication, and opportunity for direct one-on-one teaching of residents. Each fellow will be required to complete a research project, present at national meetings (including the AAGL and the IPPS) and finalize a manuscript for publication by the end of the second year of the fellowship. Fellows will be required to attend weekly didactic core lectures which will not only focus on the above clinical topics but will also include specific of lectures on research methodology, publication requirements and obtaining research funding. In addition, fellows are encouraged to attend monthly journal review, pre-operative case review, morbidity and mortality conference and grand rounds. In the first year the fellow will also complete the **Certificate Program in Clinical Research**, a 12-month lecture series in epidemiology, biostatistics, and study design. The fellow will be involved in teaching medical students and Ob-Gyn residents from the UCF College of Medicine / HCA GME Consortium Ob/Gyn Residency. Lastly, the fellows will be exposed to extensive mentorship in career development to prepare them for practice beyond fellowship in academic and non-academic environments.

