



*Accreditation Period: 2021-2024*

## MAIMONIDES MEDICAL CENTER BROOKLYN, NEW YORK



**PEDRAM BRAL, MD**  
Program Director



**AMRO ELFEKY, MD**  
Associate Program Director



**LINDSEY MICHEL, MD**  
Associate Program Director

### **FACULTY**

**Scott Chudnoff, MD** – Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery

**Juan Sandoval, MD** - Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery

**Albert Palileo, MD** - Gynecologic Oncology

**Ioannis Alagkiozidis, MD** – Gynecologic Oncology

**Elishia Mckay, MD** - Urogynecology

**Allison Polland, MD** - Urology

**Tendai Chiware, MD** - Reproductive Endocrinology

### **TWO-YEAR PROGRAM**

**2-Year Program** **3-Year Program**Optional Degrees:  MPH  MBA  MS  Other:  None**Number of Faculty**

GYN Faculty: 5	UROGYN Faculty: 1
REI Faculty: 1	ONCOLOGY Faculty: 2
GU Faculty: 1	General Surgery Faculty: 0
Colorectal Faculty: 0	Other:

Residency Program Affiliation:  Yes  NoComputer Simulation Center:  Yes  No**Training Labs**

<input type="checkbox"/> Cadaver lab	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Lab	<input type="checkbox"/> None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dry Lab	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robotics	

Office Surgery:  Yes  NoContract/Agreement Letter:  Yes  No

Stipend PGY-5 or 6:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Resident Teaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Benefit Package:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
OB obligation:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please describe obligation. Additional compensation available
Junior Faculty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Attending Privileges <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Moonlighting:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Non-compete clause: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Malpractice:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Meeting support: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Malpractice tail coverage:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Other coverage obligations- specify:

Accept J1 Visa applicants  Yes  NoAccept H1 Visa applicants  Yes  NoDedicated Research Hours: Hours/per week: 4  
Hours/per month: 16Protected Academic: Hours/per week: 4  
Hours/per month: 16**Clinical Focus/Special Interest**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reproductive Surgery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oncology
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Endometriosis/Pelvic Pain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pelvic Reconstruction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robotic Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/> Pediatric/Adolescent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hysteroscopic Surgery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Fibroids

## **Program Description:**

The Maimonides Medical Center Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Fellowship is a two-year comprehensive program. It incorporates high volume surgical experience, clinical research, along with numerous educational activities. Our fellows actively participate in a full spectrum of vaginal, laparoscopic, robotic, operative hysteroscopic, and other minimally invasive procedures, including oncologic, urogynecologic, and REI procedures.

Our fellowship is based at Maimonides Medical Center, which trains more than 400 residents and fellows per year in more than 70 specialties. The Obstetrics and Gynecology Department has 24 residents and 5 fellows (3 MFM and 2 MIGS). Maimonides is a major teaching affiliate of S.U.N.Y. Downstate Medical Center. Fellows will also participate in surgeries at Brookdale University Hospital in Brooklyn.

The overall goal of the two-year post-graduate training program is to equip the fellow with the necessary skills to be proficient in advanced gynecologic surgery, particularly minimally invasive surgery. The mandated research requirements, along with our teaching style, which focuses on teaching our fellows to become teachers, enables our fellows to pursue and succeed in gynecologic academic careers. Given that protected research time is incorporated into the fellowship, the expectation is that the research projects will result in national presentations and peer-reviewed manuscripts.

Our multidisciplinary approach to complex surgeries not only enhances the surgical experience of our fellows, but it also improves our patient outcomes. This comradery in the Maimonides gynecology/surgery family, is the very focus of our mission.

Fellows will have teaching responsibilities as they relate to the training of attending level physicians both in the academic and community settings. He/she is expected to work actively with the OB/GYN residents at Maimonides and be a resource for them. During the second year of fellowship, the fellow will be expected to be a resource to other gynecologic surgeons in the department. He/she will enable fellow surgeons to perform their cases using a minimally invasive approach, by assisting and exposing them to minimally invasive techniques.

### **Educational goals:**

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

### **Research and Teaching goals:**

The fellow should demonstrate over a course of two years:

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. Inclination to teach the residents basic and advanced laparoscopic and robotic skills, using pelvic trainers and high-fidelity simulation devices at the laparoscopic simulation center at Maimonides, and active participation in the FLS training of the residents.
3. 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.
4. Ability to write scientific articles, and grant applications and to contribute appropriately in an academic setting.

### **Fellowship curriculum**

- Gaining proficiency in all advanced gynecologic procedures is expected. He/she should be able to perform procedures such as diagnostic and operative hysteroscopy for abnormal uterine bleeding, polyps,

submucous leiomyomas and intrauterine adhesions. He/she is expected to become proficient in endoscopic suturing to close the vaginal cuff safely and expediently after hysterectomy and reconstruct the uterus following laparoscopic myomectomy. He/she should be able to perform all types of hysterectomy (vaginal, TLH, LSH, and robotic-assisted hysterectomy), treat stage IV endometriosis and select, evaluate, and manage adnexal masses laparoscopically, when indicated.

- He/she should be able to identify and manage complications following gynecological surgeries and obtain the appropriate consultations when indicated.
- The office experience incorporates fellows into an office-based surgery curriculum which includes both diagnostic as well as operative hysteroscopic capability.
- Robotic experience in hysterectomy, sacrocolpopexy and myomectomy are included in the program.
- Pertaining to Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery, the fellows will be participating with the urogynecologist and generalist in the management of advanced urogynecological procedures, including robotic and vaginal surgeries.
- Teaching activities will include resident instruction in laparoscopic, robotic and hysteroscopic techniques using an advanced skills laboratory and supervision of procedures. Participating in teaching floor rounds as GYN service attending, departmental grand rounds, didactic educational programs, monthly journal clubs and weekly conferences is expected. The OB/GYN department will be supportive of fellow research projects, which is expected to result in national presentations and peer-reviewed manuscripts.
- The fellow will be required to perform research and publish at least one paper on a topic relevant to MIGS prior to completion of the fellowship. The ultimate goal of the fellowship is to train academic gynecologists to become expert clinicians and teachers of minimally invasive gynecologic surgery.
- **Career Development:** Fellows meet periodically with faculty members, administrators, and the program director to discuss career goals. The entire faculty actively helps the graduating fellows to find combined academic/clinical gynecologic positions. Maimonides Medical Center also recruits many of its staff physicians from its own training programs.
- **Evaluations:** To ensure that the fellow acquires adequate knowledge and develops technical skills, their performance is monitored carefully during the course of the fellowship. They are evaluated formally by the supervising faculty member after each surgery and every clinical rotation. In addition, the fellows regularly evaluate the faculty and the educational program to ensure that the program is meeting their needs. A complete 360-degree evaluation, as part of the AAGL evaluations, are mandated by the fellowship.

### Conference schedule

**MIGS DIDACTICS:** The MIGS division meets once per week (Monday mornings) for a didactic session to review the mandatory topics. This session is dedicated to review clinical topics as outlined in the fellowship educational objectives and video curriculum.

**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 presented by experts in their respective topic domains. Maimonides Medical Center is an accredited CME provider.

**OB/GYN DEPARTMENT M&M CONFERENCE:** This department-wide morbidity and mortality conference is presented by the senior resident on each service on a monthly basis.

**JOURNAL CLUB:** Selected articles are presented on a routine basis with detailed analysis.

**PEER REVIEW/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT:** The fellow actively participates in the activities that pertain to peer review of gynecologic cases.