THE OTTAWA HOSPITAL/UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA OTTAWA, ONTARIO CANADA

SUKHBIR SONY SINGH, MD, FRCSC, FACOG
Program Director

KARINE LORTIE, MD, FRCSC
Associate Program Director

FACULTY

Dante Pascali, MD—Urogyn
Glenn Posner, MD—Gyn Education
Innie Chen, MD—MIS Research
Yvette Goddard, MD—Chronic Pain
Vincent della Zazzera, MD—Ultrasound
Tamer Elfazari—MIS Clinical

TWO YEAR PROGRAM

FELLOWSHIP IN MINIMALLY INVASIVE GYNECOLOGIC SURGERY

2-Year Program		
Optional Degrees:	☐ MPH ☐ MBA ☐ MS ☒ Other: Candidate Specific ☐ None	

Number of Faculty		
	GYN Faculty: 5	UROGYN Faculty: 1
	REI Faculty:	ONCOLOGY Faculty: 1
	GU Faculty:	General Surgery Faculty:
	Colorectal Faculty:	Other: Paeds Gynec (2)

Residency Program Affiliation:	☒ Yes ☐ No
Computer Simulation Center:	☒ Yes ☐ No

Training Labs		
	☒ Cadaver lab	☒ Animal Lab	☐ None
	☒ Dry Lab	☒ Robotics	

Office Surgery:	☒ Yes ☐ No
Contract/Agreement Letter:	☒ Yes ☐ No

	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: Peadiatric Gynecology Call Coverage	

Accept J1 & H1Visa applicants	☒ Yes ☐ No
Dedicated Research Hours:	Hours/per week: 8/week Hours/per month: 32 hours/month (YEAR I)
Protected Academic:	Hours/per week: 20/week Hours/per month: 80/month (YEAR II)

Clinical Focus/Special Interest		
	☒ Reproductive Surgery	☐ Oncology
	☒ Endometriosis/Pelvic Pain	☒ Pelvic Reconstruction
	☐ Robotic Surgery	☒ Pediatric/Adolescent
	☒ Hysteroscopic Surgery	☐ Other:

Description of Program:

The fellowship program in Minimally Invasive Gynaecology has been developed to provide an opportunity for concentrated exposure and additional training for the next generation of OB/GYN graduates who wish to provide advanced surgical care in an academic and clinical setting. The fellows will receive sub-specialty training and technical competency in sophisticated gynaecological endoscopic procedures that can be used for treatment of complex benign gynaecologic conditions.

The proposed fellowship builds upon a successful 1 year fellowship program that has been offered in Ottawa since 2008, with 13 graduates practicing across the world. Our fellowship became AAGL accredited in 2014 as a 2 year program.

The fellowship has two main overall objects: 1) to develop clinical expertise in advanced gynaecologic surgery; and 2) to develop expertise in surgical education. Each candidate will be allowed to develop a career path that is specific to their own goals and objectives. The additional academic training program will vary among candidates.

During the clinical year, the trainees are expected to become knowledgeable about the indications, contraindications, complications and alternatives to endoscopic surgical treatments for pelvic pathology and to gain increased expertise in the surgical management of gynaecological conditions including severe disease states.

The second year is an academic year and allows the candidate to develop a specific strength in gynecology leadership at a national/international level. The Fellow may select any area of academic development including quality, epidemiology or education. Through the development of a structured program focusing on advanced gynaecologic endoscopy surgical skills this fellowship is able to offer an experience that will graduate skilled surgeons and academic teachers and leaders.

Year I – Clinical Expertise and Academic Foundation Building
In year one of the program, the principle focus will be in clinical and surgical experience. During this time, the fellow will plan and start a research project within our MIS Gynaecology Research Group.

This year will set the foundation for clinical expertise and allow the fellow to become an advanced gynaecologic surgeon with proficiency in operative procedures. They will be expected to investigate and evaluate patient care with the goal of diagnosis energy sources. This academic year has the goal of creating communicators, and health advocates who are able to provide patient counseling and create and implement patient care programs for future minimally invasive gynaecology, all in a professional manner.

Education will be delivered in various forms including:
  – Didactic lecture series
  – Direct intra-operative teaching and evaluation
  – Direct teaching and evaluation in clinical settings (Surgical clinics and Chronic Pelvic Pain Clinic)
  – Educational courses (example: AAGL Fellows MIS Course)
  – Research training and orientation (mandatory at the Ottawa Health Research Institute)
  – Laboratory training (cadaver programs, anatomy lab dissection yearly)

The surgical exposure in our program far exceeds the minimum requirements by the FMIGS. By having exposure to 4 MIS surgeons and 1 Urogynaecologist, there is a wide breadth of cases and experience. We are proud of our past fellows achievements and their current employment status (all grads are practicing MIG).

In addition to learning a "procedure", we are particular about teaching the surgical philosophy. It is important for us to share knowledge on the organization of the operating room and standard procedures, fundamentals of endoscopic surgical set-up, safe-entry techniques, and instrumentation required for each surgical procedure, performance of the procedure and advanced surgical techniques along with any complications that may occur. Other key components for this portion would be pre-operative and postoperative management, counseling skills and prevention and management of complications related to endoscopic surgery.

Year II – Academic Year (Depending on Career Objectives of Candidate)

Example: Fellowship in Medical Education and Surgical Simulation
The second year is part of a well-established and nationally recognized education fellowship at the University of Ottawa Skills and Simulation Centre (uOSSC). This will include weekly didactic and interactive lecture series and independent academic educational research and/or program development.

Clinical exposure will be maintained throughout the year with a weekly clinical encounter (either OR or clinics).

Past fellows who have completed this program have developed novel models for surgical simulation for laparoscopic hysterectomy, adnexal surgery and hysteroscopy. The use of low and high fidelity models are encouraged.

Research
Research training and projects will be an important factor for successful completion of this fellowship. They will be required to develop an independent research question and complete at least one project during year I, as well as present this project at a national or international conference. They are expected to have at least one research publication (or at minimum a manuscript suitable for publication), two review articles or two case reports/video presentations by the time of their graduation. Year II will focus on education research and/or program development, which must also be disseminated through presentation and publication. They will have the opportunity to participate in both national and international conferences and presentations such as those hosted by SOGC, AAGL, CANSAGE or SimSummit. Each fellow must demonstrate a full understanding of how clinical research is conducted.

Optional
Each of our fellows will have the opportunity to further advance their medical skills through the option to complete a one month elective in urogynaecology/pelvic floor reconstruction, general surgery, urology, gynaecologic oncology or at the pain clinic.

Link to our program description here as well: https://www.cansage.org/uottawa