



Accreditation Period: 2022-2026

**ST. LUKE'S UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
AND HEALTH NETWORK
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**



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Program Director



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Associate Program Director

FACULTY

Karen Taverna-Miller, MD—Gynecology
David Hanes, MD—Gynecology
Kristen Stone-Mulhem, MD—Gynecology
Miles Murphy, MD—Urogynecology
Akira Gillingham, MD—Urogynecology
Nicholas Taylor, MD—Gynecology Oncology
Israel Zigelboim, MD—Gynecology Oncology
Richard Boulay, MD—Gynecology Oncology
Ashley Graul, MD—Gynecology Oncology
Daniel Baillie, MD—General Surgery
Leonardo Claros, MD—Bariatric Surgery
Tara Budinetz, DO—Reproductive Endocrinology and Fertility
Maher El Charr, MD—Bariatric Surgery

TWO YEAR PROGRAM



2-Year Program																	
Optional Degrees:	<input type="checkbox"/> MPH <input type="checkbox"/> MBA <input type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None																
Number of Faculty																	
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Computer Simulation Center:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No																
Training Labs																	
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Protected Academic:	Hours/per week: 4 hours per week Hours/per month:																
Clinical Focus/Special Interest																	
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Description of Program:

The goal of the fellowship program is to ensure that our fellows will excel clinically in all surgical approaches to minimally invasive operative gynecology. **Our fellows graduate with well over 100 cases each of laparoscopic, robotic, and vaginal approaches. Our focus is surgery, surgery, and more surgery.**

The overall goal of the FMIGS is for the graduate to serve as an independent specialist and consultant in the surgical management and techniques of advanced benign minimally invasive gynecology. The fellow will acquire surgical skills far surpassing competence expected at the end of a categorical residency.

The overall educational objectives are to train fellows in:

- a wide variety of advanced gynecologic surgeries including minimally invasive vaginal, hysteroscopic, laparoscopic and robotic approaches.
- a wide array of clinical research methodologies and scientific investigations, including completion of a formal course in epidemiology and bio-statistics
- today's healthcare economics or business management skills for leading a gynecologic practice, including strategic planning, marketing, financial management including proper coding and reimbursement
- developing lecture topics and power point presentations including effective presentation skills for medical education to providers as well as patient education and community awareness programs.

Lastly, in addition to the traditional MIGS focus on benign conditions requiring complex surgery, such as advanced endometriosis and large uterine fibroids, the program will have a significant component of female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery as well as gynecologic oncology. It is our intention to have the fellow graduate with complete confidence in performing pelvic surgery within the intraperitoneal cavity, the retroperitoneal spaces and the pelvic floor.

The fellow will be expected to take part in clinical office hours with the faculty. This will include preoperative evaluations, including patient counseling, since they provide invaluable experience in assessment and planning of surgical therapy. The fellows will progress from shadowing to direct supervision to indirect supervision. In general, the fellow will be initially supervised one-on-one and advised intensively by the faculty, allowing for a progressive increase in responsibility and independence. They will function in the operating room first as an assistant, then co-surgeon, then to primary surgeon with proctoring supervision only. They also will function as surgical instructors for the residents. The fellow will staff both the MIGS and the Urogyn clinic once a month, seeing patients independently with the resident staff. Fellows will participate in inpatient and outpatient surgery as well as in-patient rounding as deemed appropriate by faculty.

In summary, our program has an extremely high surgical case volume that the fellows are able to participate in that involve all minimally invasive approaches to a broad array of clinical conditions. They routinely operate four days out of five for two full years, starting on day one. As a result of this extensive surgical training, upon graduation, our fellows have multiple career opportunities to choose from.

Conferences/seminars and lectures

Clinically oriented conferences include weekly conferences in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, including monthly Grand Rounds. A didactic fellow's seminar will be held quarterly. A series of didactic as well as hands-on training will address the established educational objectives. Various faculty in the division of Gyn oncology, advanced Gyn surgery, as well as the FPMRS faculty present information on pertinent topics. The fellow will be provided an electronic version of the AAGL required reading list with the expectation to complete the reading list and document progress.

Scientific Meetings

Our prior FPMRS fellows, current MIGS fellows and residents and faculty have regularly submitted and presented original research at scientific meetings such as ACOG, SGS, AUGS, IUGA and AAGL. Provisions are made to allow fellows to attend up to two scientific meetings a year.

Clinical Quality and Process Improvement Teams

St Luke's has several active clinic PI teams including one dedicated to benign gynecologic services. Areas that are a part of the ongoing process improvement include Obstetric Pelvic Trauma Risk Assessment (OPTA), route of hysterectomy, readmission rates, DVT prophylactics, timing of perioperative antibiotics and SSI as well as ERAS protocols. The fellow will have an opportunity to play an active role on these teams.

Responsibilities and activities of fellows in

- a) **Advanced Benign Gynecology**
Under the direction of nationally recognized experts in the field of minimally invasive gynecologic surgery (COEMIG members) the fellow will actively participate in a busy clinical gynecology service rotation offering laparoscopic and robotic hysterectomy (total and supracervical), laparoscopic myomectomy, surgical treatment of endometriosis, operative hysteroscopy, endoscopic approaches to adnexal masses and pelvic adhesive disease.
- b) **Female Pelvic Medicine Reconstructive Surgery**
The Section of Female Pelvic Medicine Reconstructive Surgery includes three Board Certified physicians. Under the direction of nationally recognized experts in the field of urogynecology the fellow will be expected to take part in clinical office hours with the faculty to orient him or herself to the practice. Preoperative evaluations are mandatory, and the fellow will participate in surgery for complex pelvic organ prolapse and urinary or fecal incontinence.
- c) **Gynecology Oncology**
The Section of Gynecology Oncology includes four Board Certified physicians. The fellow shall be trained in the comprehensive management to patients with gynecologic cancer including ovarian, uterine, vaginal, vulva and endometrial. Fellows will evolve to be able to manage a full range of technical surgical issues, both robotic and laparoscopic encountered during oncologic surgery, and complex medical problems that arise in women with gynecologic cancers.
- d) **REI**
The Section of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility includes one Board Certified physician and a certified Embryologist/laboratory. While the Fellow might expose him/herself to the

reproductive medicine/endocrinology portion, they will be specifically directed to the technical aspects of minimally invasive reparative infertility surgery and the various surgical modalities involved in advanced and assisted reproductive technology.

e) Research

Women's health research plays an important role in The Institute for Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery and St. Luke's University Health Network. Under the medical advisement and guidance of our faculty fellows will have ample opportunity to select from a variety of research protocols to co-author. All of our clinical research trials have full Investigational Review Board (IRB) approval and are conducted by experienced research personnel, assuring good clinical practice.

f) Teaching residents and students

Fellows will have the opportunity to teach residents, medical school students and visiting students from other medical schools through informal discussions in clinical settings to surgical instruction and formal didactic lectures. They will also be providing one formal PowerPoint lecture per month to the Ob/Gyn residents during their educational day.