



Accreditation Period: 2022-2023

BRIDGEPORT HOSPITAL/YALE-NEW HAVEN HEALTH SYSTEM—MINIMALLY INVASIVE GYNECOLOGIC SURGERY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT



MASOUD AZODI, MD
Program Director



Shabnam Kashani, MD
Associate Program Director



GULDEN MENDERES, MD
Associate Program Director

FACULTY

Richard Bercik, MD—Assistant Professor, Yale Uro-Gynecology

Harold J. Sauer, MD—Chairman OB/GYN, Bridgeport Hospital, Reproductive Endocrinology

Farinaz Seifi, MD—Assistant Professor, Yale Gynecology

Scott Thornton, MD—Colo-Rectal Surgery, Bridgeport Hospital

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						
	GYN Faculty: 2	UROGYN Faculty: 1				
	REI Faculty: 1	ONCOLOGY Faculty: 2				
	GU Faculty:	General Surgery Faculty:				
	Colorectal Faculty:	Other:				
Residency Program Affiliation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
Computer Simulation Center: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
Contract/Agreement Letter: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No					
						If yes, please describe obligation.
	Junior Faculty <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No					Attending Privileges <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	Moonlighting: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No					Non-compete clause: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 & H1Visa applicants <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
Dedicated Research Hours: Hours/per week: 8 Hours/per month: 32						
Protected Academic: Hours/per week: 2 Hours/per month: 8						
Clinical Focus/Special Interest						
	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Other:				

Program Description:

Our gynecologic endoscopy program is a two-year comprehensive program incorporating clinical, research, and educational activities. Bridgeport Hospital is a community teaching program with Yale University affiliation. We currently perform over 2,500 gynecologic procedures per year. Our Minimally Invasive Surgery Program is a high volume service that covers the breadth of gynecologic endoscopy as well as complex abdominal and vaginal surgery. The fellow will benefit from the experience of active surgeons whose collective focus includes a full spectrum of laparoscopic, hysteroscopic, and minimally invasive procedures including infertility, urology, colorectal, gynecologic oncology and general gynecology. Exposure to robotic-assisted laparoscopy is a vital component of our fellowship program.

The Director of the Fellowship Program, Dr. Masoud Azodi, is a Professor (Yale University School of Medicine) and he is part of the Gynecologic Oncology Group and the Director of the minimally-invasive and Robotic Surgery at Yale University School of Medicine's Gynecologic Oncology Section in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & reproductive sciences. He is also the Chief of Gynecologic Oncology at Bridgeport Hospital. Over the past several years, he has become the community's leading expert in gynecologic laparoscopic surgery, performing over 2,500 robotic cases since 2006 and has a vast experience with conventional laparoscopy. Most of his cases are referred from general gynecologists, for not only malignancy, but also complicated surgical challenges including large myomatous uteri, extensive adhesive disease, and/or endometriosis. He performs seven to ten endoscopic procedures per week. His passion for minimally invasive surgery has inspired many residents and attending physicians in the community. He has won many awards for his excellence in resident education.

Dr. Richard Bercik is a part of the Uro-Gynecology Group at Yale University. He is also an attending at Bridgeport Hospital. He is very active in clinical research in minimally invasive surgery and has proven to be an exceptional teacher. He has joined our fellowship faculty list starting January 1st, 2012 to increase the fellow's exposure and teaching in uro-gynecological procedures including pelvic floor reconstruction.

Dr. Shabnam Kashani is the Clinical Director of Ob/Gyn Ambulatory Services at Bridgeport Hospital and Associate Program Director of the MIGS Fellowship Program. She completed her MIGS Fellowship at Bridgeport Hospital and is well versed in minimally invasive surgery, both hysteroscopic and laparoscopic procedures. She is very active in both residency and fellowship programs and has a passion for teaching including simulation.

Harold J. Sauer, MD, is the Chairman of the Yale New Haven Health Bridgeport Hospital Obstetrics and Gynecology Department. He is a fellowship-trained REI and longtime ABOG board examiner. He is actively involved with resident education.

Dr. Gulden Menderes is an Assistant Professor of the Gynecology Oncology Group at Yale University. She joined the fellowship as a core faculty member in August 2018 after completing her MIGS Fellowship with us in June 2014 and her Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship at Yale in June 2018. She is very active in clinical research and is a prolific publisher. She has proven herself to be an exceptional teacher.

Dr. Farinaz Seifi is an Assistant Professor of the Gynecology at Yale University. She joined the fellowship as a core faculty member in August 2018 after completing her MIGS Fellowship with us in June 2018. Dr. Seifi is passionate about teaching and she received the Surgical Faculty Award for teaching surgical techniques to residents and fellows. She is skilled in laparoscopic and robotic complex surgeries including advanced endometriosis. She is a member of committee for Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) at Yale and actively involved in researches to optimize pain control after minimally invasive surgeries.

Dr. Scott Thornton is a prominent colorectal surgeon at Bridgeport Hospital. He will support the general surgery aspect of the fellowship, allowing the fellow extensive experience in enterolysis, bowel repair and resection. He is an expert in laparoscopic colorectal surgery. He has been named as Best Doctor in multiple issues of New York Magazine and won multiple awards for resident education.

FELLOWSHIP CURRICULUM

Gaining proficiency in all advanced gynecologic procedures is expected. These would include LSH, TLH, laparoscopic myomectomy, laparoscopic sacrocolpopexy, suburethral slings, hysteroscopic myomectomy, and colorectal surgery. Robotic experience in hysterectomy, sacrocolpopexy, myomectomy, and retroperitoneal oncologic staging will be included in the programs.

Teaching activities will include resident instruction in endoscopic technique using an advanced skills laboratory and supervision of basic endoscopic procedures. Participating in departmental grand rounds, didactic educational programs, biweekly journal clubs, biweekly tumor boards and weekly conferences is expected. The required research project may take advantage of the many clinical or basic research opportunities ongoing in the division or may be uniquely designed by the fellow with faculty supervision. The Yale OB/GYN department will be supportive of fellow research projects will result in national presentations and peer-reviewed manuscripts. Protected academic research time is incorporated into the post-graduate training program.

A unique feature of this program is not only the incorporation of training in robotics as it applies to gynecologic procedures but due to the nature of the practice, the fellow will have exposure to gynecological malignancies and assist in laparoscopic staging and radical surgery for malignancies. There are no gynecologic oncology fellows based at Bridgeport Hospital, making the busy surgical volume of the Gynecologic Oncology Section all potential cases for learning by the gynecologic endoscopy fellow.

Overall, this program will train the fellow for general gynecologic minimally invasive surgery using conventional laparoscopy, robotic-assisted laparoscopy, and hysteroscopy. They will also have extensive experience with gynecologic oncology procedures, reproductive endocrine procedures, urogynecologic procedures, complex gynecologic surgeries and advanced endometriosis cases. Our fellow will also work with an experienced colorectal surgeon performing laparoscopic bowel procedures.

Fellow will spend an average of 2 days in surgery per week. Individuals can expect to be in the office/clinic an average of 2 days per week. Around 1 day per week will be reserved for research time.

Fellows will have teaching responsibilities as they relate to the training of not only 16 house staff in the

obstetrics and gynecology residency program but also medical students and physicians both in the academic and community settings. Post-graduate trainees will have the advantage of being exposed to a wide variety of resources available at Yale University. These resources include the ability to pursue master level degrees in the areas of public health and clinical investigation. Surgical laboratories with established gynecology protocols will also be readily available for both inanimate and animate training and research.

The fellow will have a two month rotation in reproductive endocrinology, a two month rotation in uro-gynecology and a one month elective rotation during their fellowship.

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

SCHEDULE

Monday: Office with Dr. Menderes/Research/ Surgery with other faculties

Tuesday: Research

Wednesday: Surgery with Dr. Azodi/ Colorectal surgery with Dr. Thornton

Thursday: Didactics/Office with Dr. Azodi/Surgery with other faculties

Friday: Surgery with Dr. Menderes and Dr.Kashani

CASE LOAD

Operative Laparoscopy – 250

Diagnostic Laparoscopy – 30

Operative Hysteroscopy – 30

Diagnostic Hysteroscopy – 30

Abdominal Hysterectomy –25

Abdominal Myomectomy – 5

Vaginal Hysterectomy - 15

Vaginal Repair Procedures – 20

Incontinence Procedures – 20

Da Vinci cases – 100

Laparotomy – 20

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

GYN Pre-op Conference

MIGS/CPP didactics (2nd & 4th week of each month)

OB/GYN Department M & M (4th week of each month)

OB/GYN Faculty Meeting

Grand Rounds (2nd & 4th Thursday of each month)

Tumor Board (1st and 3rd Thursday of each month)

DESCRIPTION OF CONFERENCE

GYN Pre-op Conference: The gynecology service will meet on a weekly basis to discuss the planned surgical

procedures for the week. The pre-operative evaluation and the indications for all resident and fellows' patients and all hysterectomies are reviewed. This conference allows the residents and fellows to review the appropriate pre-operative evaluation of most gynecologic surgical procedures, to discuss alternative treatment options, and the appropriate informed consent process.

OB/GYN Department M & M Conference: This department-wide morbidity and mortality conference is presented by the senior resident on each service.

MIS Didactics: The MIS division will meet 2 times per month for a didactic session to review topics of particular interest to our division. One session each month will be dedicated to review of a clinical topic outlined in the fellowship educational objectives.

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. Bridgeport Hospital is an accredited CME provider.

TUMOR BOARD: All Gynecologic Oncology cases are presented in multi-disciplinary board.

JOURNAL CLUB: Selected articles will be presented once a month with detailed analysis.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES: The Graduate Medical Education office is fully supportive of MIGS Fellows presenting at national and international conferences.