



Accreditation Period: 2024-2025

**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



Mitchell Clark, MD
Associate Program Director

FACULTY

Masoud Azodi, MD-Professor, Yale Gynecologic Oncology
Shabnam Kashani, MD-Assistant Clinical Professor, Bridgeport Gynecology
Mitchell Clark, MD-Assistant Professor, Yale Gynecologic Oncology
Richard Bercik, MD-Associate Professor, Yale Uro- Gynecology
Stephen Thung, MD-Professor Chairman, Yale School of Medicine
Farinaz Seifi, MD-Assistant Professor, Yale Gynecology
Terri Huynh, MD- Assistant Professor, Yale Gynecology
Jennifer Schwartz, MD-Assistant Professor of Surgery, Yale School of Medicine

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	MIGS trained	
REI Faculty: 1	UROGYN Faculty: 1	
GU Faculty:	ONCOLOGY Faculty: 2	
Colorectal Faculty:	General Surgery 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 Visa applicants <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Accept H1 Visa 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 comprehensive two-year program that integrates clinical practice, research, and educational activities. Bridgeport Hospital, a community teaching program affiliated with Yale University, performs over 3,800 gynecologic procedures annually. Our Minimally Invasive Surgery Program is a high-volume service that encompasses the full spectrum of gynecologic endoscopy as well as complex abdominal and vaginal surgery. Fellows will benefit from the expertise of active surgeons whose collective focus includes laparoscopic, hysteroscopic, and minimally invasive procedures, covering areas such as 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 Yale University School of Medicine professor. He is part of the Gynecologic Oncology Group and Director of Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery at Yale University School of Medicine's Gynecologic Oncology Section. He is also the Chief of Gynecologic Oncology at Bridgeport Hospital. Over the past several years, Dr. Azodi has become the community's leading expert in gynecologic laparoscopic surgery, having performed over 5000 robotic cases since 2006 and gaining extensive experience with conventional laparoscopy. Many of his cases are referrals from general gynecologists, dealing with not only malignancies but also complex surgical challenges such as large myomatous uteri, extensive adhesive disease, and endometriosis. He performs 7-10 endoscopic procedures weekly. Dr. Azodi's passion for minimally invasive surgery has inspired many residents and attending physicians in the community, and he has received numerous awards for excellence in resident education.

Dr. Shabnam Kashani is the Clinical Director of Ob/Gyn Ambulatory Services at Bridgeport Hospital and has served as the Associate Program Director of the MIGS Fellowship Program since 2015. She completed her MIGS Fellowship at Bridgeport Hospital, gaining extensive expertise in minimally invasive surgery, including hysteroscopic and laparoscopic techniques. Dr. Kashani has a special interest in VNOTES (vaginal natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery) and is a dedicated educator, having won numerous awards, including multiple ACOG awards for education. She is deeply involved in the fellowship program and has a strong passion for teaching, consistently contributing to the education and development of future medical professionals.

Dr. Mitchell Clark holds the rank of Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Yale University School of Medicine. After completing his residency at Yale New Haven Health, he pursued fellowship training at the internationally renowned Princess Margaret

Cancer Center at the University of Toronto, gaining clinical and surgical expertise in all aspects of gynecologic cancer care. During his fellowship, he earned a master's in public health and continues to actively research cervical cancer prevention at a population level using healthcare administrative databases. Dr. Clark has received numerous national and international awards for his research, teaching, and surgical skills, including the Society of Gynecologic Oncology of Canada (GOC) Research Award, the Award of Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecology (AAGL), and the Yale School of Medicine Teaching Award.

Dr. Richard Bercik is a member of the Uro-Gynecology Group at Yale University and also serves as an attending physician at Bridgeport Hospital. He is very active in clinical research in minimally invasive surgery and has proven to be an exceptional resident teacher. Dr. Bercik joined our fellowship faculty on January 1, 2012, to enhance fellows' exposure and training in uro-gynecological procedures, including pelvic floor reconstruction.

Dr. Farinaz Seifi is an Assistant Professor of 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 received the Surgical Faculty Award for her excellence in teaching surgical techniques to residents and fellows. She is skilled in laparoscopic and robotic complex surgeries, including advanced endometriosis. Dr. Seifi is a member of the committee for Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) at Yale and is actively involved in research to optimize pain control after minimally invasive surgeries.

Dr. Jennifer Schwartz, MD, MBOE, FACS, is an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery at the Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Schwartz earned her B.S. from Vanderbilt University and her M.D. from SUNY Upstate Medical University. She completed her general surgical residency and minimally invasive surgical fellowship at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Terri Huynh is dedicated to women's health. She specializes in advanced laparoscopy and robotic surgery and treats a range of conditions, including fibroids, adenomyosis, abnormal uterine bleeding, chronic pelvic pain, endometriosis, and hysterectomy. Dr. Huynh earned her medical degree from Yale School of Medicine and completed her residency at the University of Pennsylvania. She then pursued a Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery fellowship at Christiana Care in Delaware, where she joined the faculty. Dr. Huynh has now returned to Yale to serve the Greater New Haven community.

Fellowship Curriculum:

Gaining proficiency in all advanced gynecologic procedures is expected. These include LSH , TLH, LAVH, v NOTES hysterectomy, laparoscopic myomectomy, laparoscopic sacrocolpopexy, suburethral slings, hysteroscopic myomectomy, and colorectal surgery. The program also provides robotic experience in procedures such as hysterectomy, sacrocolpopexy, myomectomy, and retroperitoneal dissection for both benign conditions like endometriosis and malignant cases.

Teaching activities will include instructing residents in endoscopic techniques using an advanced skills laboratory and supervising basic endoscopic procedures. Fellows are expected to participate in departmental grand rounds, GYN M&M, didactic educational programs, monthly journal clubs, biweekly tumor boards, and weekly conferences. The required research project can leverage the numerous ongoing clinical or basic research opportunities within the division or be uniquely designed by the fellow with faculty supervision. The Yale OB/GYN department is committed to supporting fellow research projects, aiming for national presentations and peer-reviewed publications. The post-graduate training program incorporates protected academic research time to facilitate these endeavors.

A unique feature of this program is the comprehensive training in robotics as it applies to gynecologic procedures. Additionally, due to the nature of the practice, the fellow will gain exposure to gynecological malignancies and assist in laparoscopic staging and radical surgery for these cases. With no gynecologic oncology fellows based at Bridgeport Hospital, the busy surgical volume of the Gynecologic Oncology Section offers ample learning opportunities for the gynecologic endoscopy fellow. As a result, fellows become very comfortable and proficient in retroperitoneal dissection.

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

Fellows will spend an average of 2-3 days per week in surgery. They can expect to be in the office or clinic for approximately 2 days per week. Additionally, around 1 day per week will be reserved for research activities. Fellows will have teaching responsibilities involving the training of 16 house staff in

the obstetrics and gynecology residency program, as well as physicians in both academic and community settings. Postgraduate trainees will benefit from a wide variety of resources available at Yale University, including the opportunity to pursue master's level degrees in public health and clinical investigation. Additionally, surgical laboratories with established gynecology protocols will 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 urogynecology, and a one-month elective rotation during their fellowship.

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

Schedule:

Monday: Office with Dr. Clark/Research/ Surgery with other faculty members.

Tuesday: Research

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

Thursday: Didactics/Office with Dr. Azodi/Surgery with other faculty members

Friday: Surgery with Dr. Clark or other faculty

Case load:

Operative Laparoscopy – 300

Operative Hysteroscopy – 75

Abdominal Hysterectomy –25

Abdominal Myomectomy – 15

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 Conferences:

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 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.

National/International Conferences: The Graduate Medical Education office is fully supportive of MIGS Fellows presenting at national and international conferences.

Journal Club: Selected articles will be presented once a month with detailed analysis.