



*Accreditation Period: 2019-2024*

## CLEVELAND CLINIC CLEVELAND, OHIO



**CARA R. KING, DO, MS**  
Program Director



**MEGAN BILLOW, DO**  
Associate Program Director

### FACULTY

**Linda Bradley, MD**  
**Kenneth Edelman, MD**  
**Tommaso Falcone, MD**  
**Myra Feldman, MD**  
**Ashley Gubbels, MD**  
**Hermann Kessler, MD, PhD**  
**Marie Fidela Paraiso, MD**  
**Lindsey Valentine, MD**  
**Roberto Vargas, MD**

**TWO-YEAR PROGRAM**

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>2-Year Program</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> <b>3-Year Program</b>	
<b>Optional Degrees:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> MPH <input type="checkbox"/> MBA <input type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
<b>Number of Faculty</b>			
	GYN Faculty: 6	UROGYN Faculty: 5	
	REI Faculty: 5	ONCOLOGY Faculty: 5	
	GU Faculty: 0	General Surgery Faculty: 0	
	Colorectal Faculty: 1	Other: Imaging/Radiology : 2	
<b>Residency Program Affiliation:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>Computer Simulation Center:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>Training Labs</b>			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cadaver lab	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Animal Lab	<input type="checkbox"/> None
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dry Lab	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robotics	
<b>Office Surgery:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>Contract/Agreement Letter:</b> <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 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 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:
<b>Accept J1 Visa applicants</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>Accept H1Visa applicants</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>Dedicated Research Hours:</b> Hours/per week: Total of three 4-week blocks for the 2-yr training period Hours/per month: Approximately half to full day per week			
<b>Protected Academic:</b> Hours/per week: see above. Hours/per month: see above			
<b>Clinical Focus/Special Interest</b>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/> Oncology	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Endometriosis/Pelvic Pain	<input 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: -Mullerian Anomaly Center -Imaging rotation for advanced imaging for endometriosis and fibroid mapping -Advanced straight stick laparoscopy -Large fibroids: uterine sparing as well as advanced hysterectomy techniques	

**Program Description:**

The Cleveland Clinic Ohio Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery (MIGS) Fellowship is unique in having a core group of nationally and internationally known experts in MIGS. The Section of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery consists of esteemed gynecologic surgeons, each with complementing areas of surgical expertise, including advanced hysteroscopy, conventional laparoscopy, robotic laparoscopy and vaginal approaches. Our top priority is to educate patients about appropriate treatment options for complex gynecologic pathologies that may include both nonsurgical as well as surgical options. By including a wide of range options, it allows each patient to make the decision that is most appropriate and in line with individual priorities.

The Cleveland Clinic Ohio program prides itself on a robust team of multi-disciplinary colleagues including colorectal surgery, urology, radiology, pathology, psychology, physical therapy, weight management, functional medicine, and cardiothoracic surgery to allow optimized care for all patients. An extensive preoperative evaluation is prioritized, as we value the importance of having all required surgeons available at a single surgery. Furthermore, we have a Center for Endometriosis and Chronic Pelvic Pain, Center for Fibroids and Abnormal Uterine Bleeding, and Interdisciplinary Center for Congenital Anomalies of the Reproductive Tract (ICCARE) to allow patient centered care across specialties.

At the completion of the fellowship, graduates will be able to confidently offer a wide range of nonsurgical and surgical treatment options for complex benign disease. Several surgical approaches will be mastered including hysteroscopy, conventional laparoscopy, robotic and vaginal approaches. Our graduates will also be equipped to excel in performing research, surgical video publication, surgical coach training, and implementation of an advanced surgical education curriculum.

**Surgical Experience:**

Cleveland Clinic Ohio is a high volume, tertiary care center with a large referral base. Faculty have a total of approximately 10-12 OR days per week, which provides a variety of cases for fellows to participate in weekly. During the second year of fellowship, fellows will have the opportunity to serve as primary staff for their clinic and resident patients. Additionally, fellows serve as instructors for the residents in the operating room.

**Clinic Experience:**

The clinic experience for fellows in the program is structured into a variety of MIGS (Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery) and non-MIGS rotations designed to enhance the fellow's clinical skills and surgical expertise across multiple specialties. . Fellows have ½ day of clinic as staff each week. They also serve as staff for a gynecology oly resident clinic ½ day per month. Here's an overview:

- MIGS Rotation Block:
  - Clinical and Surgical Management: The fellow participates in the clinical and surgical management of MIGS patients across several campuses (Main campus, Hillcrest, Fairview, and Southpointe).
  - Administrative Fellow Role: The administrative MIGS fellow organizes the fellow's clinical duties, which include:
    - OR Assignments: Scheduling and assigning operating room duties.
    - Clinic Assignments: Assigning outpatient clinical responsibilities.
    - MIGS Conference Details: Organizing and scheduling MIGS-specific conferences.
    - Simulation Responsibilities: Organizing and overseeing simulation-based training sessions.

- Non-MIGS Rotations:
  - Gynecologic Oncology Rotation (2 weeks):
    - The fellow participates in clinical and surgical duties under the direction of Dr. Vargas, focusing on gynecologic oncology procedures including:
      - Primary surgeon or first assist in cases, including retroperitoneal dissections.
      - Exposure to robotic surgery and single-port surgery.
    - This rotation occurs during the second year of the fellowship.
  - FPMRS Rotation (4 weeks):
    - The fellow works with staff in the Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS) rotation during the first year.
    - Duties include:
      - Rounding and seeing patients in clinic.
      - Participating in the weekly FPMRS Case Conference/Didactic Series.
      - Acting as the primary surgeon or first assist in surgeries.
  - Radiologic Imaging Rotation (4 weeks):
    - This hybrid Imaging/MIGS rotation is directed by Dr. Myra Feldman.
  - Colorectal Rotation (2 weeks):
    - The fellow participates in a Colorectal Surgery (CORS) rotation under Dr. Michael Valente.
    - The fellow will be involved as primary surgeon or first assist in colorectal procedures.
- Tracking Block:
  - Four-Week Tracking Block: The fellow will have the opportunity to choose a tracking block designed to expand experience in a specific area of interest, such as:
    - Colorectal Surgery
    - Urology
    - Mullerian Anomaly Surgery
    - Advanced Imaging
    - PCOS/Endocrine Clinic
    - Functional Medicine
    - Or other surgical disciplines.

The clinical experience includes a well-rounded mix of MIGS-specific and non-MIGS rotations, hands-on learning opportunities in various surgical specialties, and opportunities for tailored tracking blocks to further develop the fellow's expertise in their area of interest. The program encourages active engagement, leadership in scheduling and coordination, and flexibility to maximize the learning experience

#### **Didactic Experience:**

The fellowship program includes a variety of structured educational activities to enhance clinical, research, and teaching skills.

- Weekly Educational Activities:
  - Grand Rounds and M&M (Morbidity & Mortality): Regular sessions to discuss cases and outcomes, with an emphasis on learning from both successes and challenges.
  - Fellows attend courses covering fundamental topics in clinical research, including Introduction to Clinical Research and Epidemiology along with Statistics

- Journal Clubs:
  - Clinical Research Classes: Fellows attend courses covering fundamental topics in clinical research, including:
  - The department hosts 12 combined journal clubs throughout the year, with required participation in:
    - Gynecology Journal Club
    - Ethics Journal Club
    - MIGS-focused Journal Review: Held monthly, focusing on MIGS (Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery) publications.
  
- Weekly MIGS Fellow Education:
  - Fellows participate in preoperative case conferences with MIGS faculty, where cases are presented for discussion on optimal surgical and medical management. These discussions often involve multi-disciplinary coordination.
    - Weekly conferences also include:
      - REI/MIGS Multi-disciplinary Conferences
      - Benign Tumor Board
      - Journal Club
      - Surgical Coaching
      - Core Topic Discussions
  
- Teaching and Simulation:
  - Fellows serve as lab instructors for OB/GYN residents, assisting with porcine/cadaver labs and simulation training.
  
- Surgical Performance Improvement:
  - Fellows are offered monthly 60-minute personalized, video-based surgical coaching sessions to improve their skills.

The program emphasizes a combination of formal education, hands-on learning, multi-disciplinary collaboration, and opportunities for fellows to teach and mentor others. This comprehensive didactic approach is designed to foster growth in both clinical and academic aspects of the field.

#### **Research Experience:**

The goals of the research program of the CCF FMIGS program are for the fellow to engage in ethical, high-quality, scholarly work. Through this process the fellow will master reviewing the literature, acquiring IRB approval, applying for research funding, producing meaningful academic work, and disseminating such work to the academic community. Ultimately, he or she will better understand how high-quality research contributes to the body of scientific knowledge and have the skills to produce such work.

Each fellow must undertake an individual research project approved by the research director. The fellow must complete at least one IRB-approved project by the completion of fellowship training, and then present the findings at one AAGL-approved meeting. This project must be an original data-driven project, meta-analysis, or systematic review. Additionally, it is recommended that the fellow publish a manuscript from this project in a peer-reviewed journal.

For additional information on the fellowship, please visit our [website](#) or call 330-603-5325.