

**National University Health System
Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Division of Benign Gynaecology
Clinical Fellowship Program in Minimally Invasive Surgery**

Minimally Invasive Surgery in Gynaecology is recognized in many departments as a skill requiring subspecialty training and accreditation. It encompasses many aspects of gynaecology, from infertility to benign pathology to pelvic floor reconstruction and even oncology.

Objectives of Training Program

The aims of training in gynaecological endoscopy are:

- To improve the knowledge and skill set of specialists who perform minimally invasive surgery
- To improve clinical outcomes of women who are suitable for laparoscopic surgery
- To encourage research and innovation in this area
- To increase access to minimally invasive surgery for women who require surgery thereby improving standard of care for them

At the end of the fellowship training, the trainee should have developed:

- Basic competency in gynaecological endoscopy
- Clinical competency in the indications and selection of patients for laparoscopy
- Key knowledge in potential complications and outcomes for laparoscopic surgery
- Ability to handle intra and post operative complications
- Organizational knowledge as to set up a minimally invasive surgery service

1. Method of Training

Main components of Fellowship Program:

Clinical and surgical management of benign conditions such as endometriosis, pelvic pain, adhesions, leiomyomas, adenomyosis etc

Assist in the running of outpatient hysteroscopy clinics

Perform role as first and second assistant during operating sessions

Participate in after office hours endoscopy roster for endoscopy service

Be involved in resident teaching during workshops in hysteroscopy, laparoscopy and animal training.

Participate in research module including basic lab research, translational research and project for publication.

2. Daily Roster

	0730-0830	0830-1300	1300-1400	1400-1700	1700-1800
Monday	Dept teaching sessions	Ward round and clinics	Lunch	Clinics	
Tuesday				Hysteroscopy clinic	Pre-operative rounds
Wednesday				Animal laboratory/ Dry lab training	
Thursday		Operating theatre			
Friday		Ward rounds	Lunch	Clinics	

3. Duration of Training

The duration of training is that of fulltime clinical work for at least 6 months, but preferably 1 year.

4. Components of Training

The Clinical Fellow will function as a member of the team, in the capacity of a senior trainee in the Benign Gynaecology (BG) team. Active participation in the work of the team on a fulltime basis is expected.

The Clinical Fellow will conduct the BG ward round in the subsidized wards and follow the rounds for the private patients. He will be responsible for the inpatient and outpatient care, as well as the surgery of all the subsidized patients.

He/she will coordinate the weekly pre-operative rounds and participate in the animal and dry laboratory training.

Exposure will be given to laparoscopic and robotic surgery, minimally invasive surgery in urogynaecology and infertility.

He/she will be expected to participate in the teaching of medical students, junior medical staff and nursing staff.

The Fellow will undertake a research project (clinical, basic or translational work) that should be suitable for publication before the end of the training period.

5. Syllabus

The scope of knowledge and skillset content that should be achieved by the Fellow follows the document "Intermediate Level Laparoscopic Surgery" and "Advanced

Hysteroscopic Surgery” published by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, which is appended.

Supervision

The Clinical Fellow will train under the direct supervision of the consultants of the Benign Gynaecology Division and under the overall supervision of the Head of Division.

Assessment

The Clinical Fellow will have a temporary appointment in the first 4 weeks of training. He will be assessed by the Division before being confirmed as a Clinical Fellow for subspecialty training. If he is deemed to be unsuitable, he may have the option of staying on as a Preceptee (hands-on training but no clinical privileges) or Observer (no hands-on training). This will be decided at the discretion of the Division.

Once confirmed, the Clinical Fellow is expected to maintain a record of all training, teaching and research activities in a training assessment log. The training assessment log serves as the basis for assessment of training and progress.

Assessment of the Fellow is carried out on a daily continuous basis during ward rounds, clinics and operating theatres.

The training assessment log will be reviewed by the Division every 3rd month to ensure that the training experience is appropriately recorded. Progress of the research project must also be recorded. The training supervisor will discuss with the Fellow about his progress and comments will be recorded in the logbook, which will be signed by the Fellow and training supervisor.

Termination process

Termination of the appointment will take place upon completion of the period of training. Any termination of appointment prior to this will follow the guidelines of National University Hospital's Departments of Human Resource and Medical Affairs, and will be at the discretion of the Head of Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

(Prepared by Dr Fong Yoke Fai, Head of Benign Gynaecology, December 2008)