

# **Society of Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgeons**

## **Fellowship in Specialized Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery (SMIRS)**

### **Preceptor Program Overview, Objectives, and Application**

#### **Preceptor Overviews/Objectives:**

1. To teach and provide Fellows a level of proficiency with advanced laparoscopic and robotic assisted techniques with respect to the following specialized areas:
  - a. Minimally Invasive and Robotic Assisted General Surgery
  - b. Minimally Invasive and Robotic Assisted Gynecology Surgery
  - c. Minimally Invasive and Robotic Assisted Urologic Surgery
  - d. Surgical Simulation
  - e. Specially designed multidisciplinary fellowships based on the interests of preceptee and the availability of an appropriate preceptor
2. To increase familiarity with the fundamental principles of clinical research and improve the ability to critically interpret scientific and interpretation of recorded literature and peer reviewed journals.
3. To demonstrate a better understanding in the multidisciplinary management of patients with chronic abdominal and pelvic pain syndromes in conjunction with gynecologic, urologic, thoracic and general surgery.

#### **Preceptee Expectations:**

- Be available for all surgical cases including emergency cases if occur
- Call coverage for office and surgery patients
- Office and hospital patient management
- Encouraged to participate in and conduct scholarly research, review and publish scientific articles/videos
- Completion of a clinical research project depending upon interests of the Preceptee and availability

#### **Current Preceptor Sites:**

- [\*\*SLS Fellowship in Advanced Minimally Invasive and Endoscopic Techniques in General and Colorectal Surgery\*\*](#)

Royal Columbian and Eagle Ridge Hospitals, Greater Vancouver Area, BC, Canada  
Program Director: Dr. Jiri (George) Melich, MD, FRCS(C)

- **Florida Surgical Specialists Enhanced General Surgery Fellowship: Advanced Laparoscopic and Robotic Foregut, Hernia and Colorectal Fellowship**  
Florida Surgical Specialists; Bradenton, FL  
Program Director: Paul Toomey, MD, FACS  
Program Co-Director: Riva Das, MD
- **The Marchand Institute for Minimally Invasive Surgery and Steward Health Mountain Vista Medical Center Affiliated Fellowship Program in Minimally Invasive and Robotic Gynecologic Surgery**  
Location: Marchand Institute for Minimally Invasive Surgery, Mesa, AZ  
Program Director: Dr. Greg J. Marchand and Ali Azadi, MD, FACOG, FPMRS
- **Fellowship in Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery in Gynecology and Reproductive Surgery**  
Center for Special Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery  
Program Director: Camran Nezhat, MD, FACOG, FACS
- **Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Fellowship (FMIGS) of South Florida**  
The Center for Gynecologic Oncology; Miramar, FL  
Program Director: Emery Salom, MD  
Associate Directors: Jacob Tangir, MD and Jonathan Black, MD, MPH
- **Fellowship in Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery in Gynecology and Reproductive Surgery**  
Atlanta Center for minimally Invasive Surgery and Reproductive Medicine  
Program Director: Cean Nezhat, MD, FACOG, FACS
- **Fellowship in Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery in Gynecologic Benign and Malignant Pathologies**  
Winthrop University Hospital  
Program Director: Farr Nezhat, MD, FACOG, FACS
- **SLS Surgical Simulation Fellowship**  
University of Washington  
Program Director: Robert Sweet, MD

## **Representations and Warranties**

By applying to the SLS SMIRS Fellowship program, the program director and institution acknowledge:

1. The preceptor will maintain membership in SLS.
2. All information submitted by the program director regarding specific programs and offerings in this application is true to the best of our knowledge and belief.
3. The program director has the surgical skills and knowledge to be a SLS SMIRS Fellowship Preceptor.
4. The Program Director and program have received and read:
  - a) The guidelines for the SLS SMIRS Fellowship,

- b) The preceptee's application form, and
  - c) The preceptee questionnaire.
5. The preceptor and site agree to abide by such Fellowship guidelines, policies, procedures, rules, and regulations that may be implemented from time to time.
  6. The institution and the program director understand and agree that the SLS Board of Trustees may not accept an application at its sole discretion and without cause. The institution, program director and preceptor(s) agree to practice medicine according to the professional and ethical standards of our specialty.
  7. It is understood that the Preceptor, Program Director, and Institution have the burden of producing adequate information for proper evaluation of professional competence, character, ethics and other qualifications, and for resolving any doubts about such qualifications. It is understood that any significant misstatements in our omissions from this application are cause for denial of appointment to or dismissal from the SLS SMIRS Fellowship program.
  8. The acceptance of a program director and/or preceptor by the SMIRS program Board does not serve as an endorsement of clinical skills, competence or capacity to perform specific procedures.
  9. The program director has the primary responsibility for the fellow's training.

## **Fellowship Acknowledgement and Responsibilities**

1. The SLS SMIRS Fellowship program offers a fellowship for applicants accepted by an approved institution. The Fellowship's responsibilities include:
  - a. Providing guidelines for the Fellowship program.
  - b. Providing timely evaluations of potential Fellowship sites.
  - c. Approval or disapproval of program directors for fellowship training.
  - d. Providing continuous evaluation of the program director, who will be evaluated not only by the preceptee accepted for training, but also upon the skill and knowledge obtained by the preceptee during training at the Fellowship site.
  - e. Providing application forms for preceptee, program director, and institution.
  - f. Providing a certificate of completion to the preceptee upon completing his/her training, if approved by the program director and the SLS Board of Trustees.
2. All details of the fellowship are subject to an agreement between the preceptor and preceptee. The Fellowship disclaims all responsibilities except those specified in the immediately preceding paragraph.
3. In the performance of and discharge of its obligations pursuant to this Agreement, the institution

and program director are at all times acting as an independent contractor engaged in the profession and practice of medicine. The Program Director shall employ his/her own means and methods and exercise professional judgment in the performance of such services. The Fellowship shall have no right of control or direction with respect to such means, methods, or judgments, or with respect to the details of such services. The sole concern of the Fellowship under this Agreement or otherwise is that, irrespective of the means selected, such services shall be provided in a competent, efficient, and satisfactory manner. It is expressly agreed that the institution and program director shall not for any purpose be deemed to be an employee, agent, partner, joint venture, ostensible or apparent agent, servant, or borrowed servant of the Fellowship or the Society of Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgeons.

## **Institution Agreements and Responsibilities**

1. If accepted as a SLS SMIRS Fellowship site, the institution agrees that the SLS Board of Trustees may terminate the continued participation as a preceptor site, if the objectives and terms of the fellowship are not being achieved.
2. The Institution agrees to not accept any preceptee who has not completed an approved residency program and/or who does not have a license (institutional or otherwise) to practice medicine in your state and country.
3. As a SLS SMIRS Fellowship site, the institution accepts and assumes the responsibility for the training of the preceptee and care of patients involved with the training.
4. As a SLS SMIRS Fellowship site, the institution further acknowledges that this training program will culminate in issuance of a certificate of completion, if the Program Director determines that the preceptee's performance is satisfactory. However, the certificate or issuance thereof does not certify that the fellow:
  - a. is a competent surgeon and physician,
  - b. is eligible for any other certification, or
  - c. has any specialized knowledge, skill, or ability.
5. As an approved SLS SMIRS Fellowship site, the institution hereby agrees to indemnify the SLS for any claims brought against it in connection with the fellowship. The fellowship will not be involved in nor bear responsibilities for any claims that might occur as a direct result of patient care rendered by program director and/or the preceptee and the institution; or disputes between the institution or department, the program director or faculty, and the preceptee.
6. As a SLS SMIRS Fellowship site, the institution reserves the right to terminate a fellowship appointment at any time. However, the reason(s) for the termination must be provided in writing to the SLS Board of Trustees.
7. As a SLS SMIRS Fellowship site, institution understands and agrees that the preceptee will be required to complete an evaluation regarding his/her training experience and that this information

will be submitted to the SLS Board of Trustees, as privileged information to be used at its discretion.

8. The institution understands and agrees that it is its duty, as a SLS SMIRS Fellowship site, to make specific arrangements with the preceptee with respect to the duties, responsibilities, liability insurance, and compensation of the preceptee.
9. The preceptor, understands and agrees to accept responsibility for the training of the preceptee (Fellow).
10. The institution acknowledges and agrees to maintain workplace standards described in the SLS Anti-Harassment Policy.

### **Program Director's Acknowledgement and Responsibilities**

1. Once accepted as a program director, it is agreed that the SLS Board of Trustees may discontinue the Program Director, if the objectives and terms of the fellowship are not being achieved.
2. The Program Director agrees to not accept a preceptee who has not completed an approved OB/GYN, Urology, or General Surgery residency program and/or who has no license (institutional or otherwise) to practice medicine in the state and country.
3. The Program Director accepts the responsibility for the training of the preceptee and care of patients involved with the training.
4. The Program Director further acknowledges that this training program will culminate in issuance of a certificate of completion of the program, if the preceptee's performance has been satisfactory. However, the certificate or issuance thereof does not certify that the fellow:
  - a. is a competent surgeon and physician,
  - b. is eligible for any other certification, or
  - c. has any specialized knowledge, skill, or ability.
5. The Program Director acknowledges that SLS will not be involved in or bear responsibilities for any litigation that might occur as a direct result of patient care rendered by the institution, faculty or preceptee, or disputes between the institution and/or the faculty and/or the preceptee.
6. The Program Director reserves the right to terminate a fellowship appointment at any time. However, the reason(s) for termination must be provided in writing to the SLS Board of Trustees.
7. The Program Director understands and agrees that the preceptee will be required to complete an evaluation regarding his/her training experience and that this information will be submitted to the SLS Board of Trustees, as privileged information to be used at its discretion.
8. It is understood that it is the duty and responsibility of the preceptor to make specific

arrangements with the preceptee with respect to the duties, responsibilities, liability insurance, and compensation of the preceptee.

## **Consent to Release Information**

By applying for appointment (or reappointment) to become a preceptor, I hereby agree that:

1. The Preceptor is willing to appear for interviews regarding this application;
2. The SMIRS Board of Trustees and SLS are authorized to consult with administrators, employees, and members of medical staffs of hospitals, medical schools, or organizations with which the Preceptor has been associated with respect to professional competence, character, and ethical qualifications;
3. The Preceptor gives consent to the SMIRS Board of Trustees and SLS for inspection of all records and documents, including, but not limited to, medical records at hospitals, which may be material to an evaluation of professional competence and professional and ethical qualifications for the SLS SMIRS Fellowship. If medical records are reviewed, the identity of the patient will be kept Confidential;
4. The Preceptor authorizes the SLS Board of Trustees, SLS, and their representatives to consult with past and present professional liability insurance carriers or self- insurance trusts with respect to professional liability claims involving the Preceptor;
5. The Preceptor consents to allow the release of information concerning the Preceptor by hospitals, medical schools, and organizations that are requested by the SLS Board of Trustees and SLS to provide information relevant to the evaluation of the application to become a preceptor.

## **Release of Liability**

By applying for appointment (or reappointment) both preceptor and institution, hereby:

1. Release from liability SLS and the SLS Board of Trustees, its employees, agents, and representatives, for any and all of their professional review actions with respect to the evaluation of the qualifications and appointment to become a preceptor;
2. Release from liability all individuals and organizations who provide to the SLS Board of Trustees and its individual members, SLS, and their representatives, information regarding the professional competence, ethics, character, and other qualifications for an appointment as preceptor; and **AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE SLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES, AND ASSIGNS, FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES INCURRED TO, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, PERSONS OR PROPERTY ARISING:**
  - a. **FROM THE ACTS OF THE PRECEPTOR OR THE PRECEPTEE DURING THE COURSE OF THE FELLOWSHIP IN SPECIALIZED MINIMALLY INVASIVE AND ROBOTIC SURGERY, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, LIABILITY FOR INJURIES TO PATIENTS RESULTING FROM TREATMENT GIVEN BY PRECEPTOR OR PRECEPTEE, AND/OR**

b. PERFORMANCE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRECEPTOR OR PRECEPTEE PURSUANT TO THIS APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT.

**Recruitment, Eligibility & Selection:**

**Recruitment:**

Goal:

To recruit and train physicians committed to excellence in Minimally Invasive Surgery who:

- A. Will promote, practice, and respect the mission of minimally invasive surgery.
- B. Will be compassionate providers

**Applicant Eligibility:\***

***\*- Please See Sections X Below for specific details and requirements for Surgical Simulation Fellowships***

- I. Accredited Residency Training completion
  - A. Certificate or letter of completion with dates of training
  - B. Two Letters of recommendations from program faculty or from surgical colleagues (if currently in practice)
  
- II. LCME (Liaison Committee of Medical Education) graduates must have:
  - A. Doctor of Medicine diploma without reservation
  - B. Dean's letter
  - C. Successful completion of all steps of the USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Examination) at first attempt with a minimum score of 200 (80)
    - a. Transcript directly from the FSMB (Federation of State Medical Boards)
  - D. Acceptable explanation of any break in education (if applicable)
  - E. Demonstrated written and spoken fluency in English language
  - F. Proof of citizenship or resident alien status
  
- III. AOA Graduates:
  - A. Doctor of Osteopathy diploma without reservation
  - B. Dean's letter
  - C. Successful completion of all steps of COMLEX (Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination) at first attempt with a minimum score of 500 (80)
    - a. Transcript directly from the NBOME (National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners)
  - D. Acceptable explanation of any break in education (if applicable)
  - E. Demonstrated written and spoken fluency in English language
  - F. Proof of citizenship or resident alien status
  
- IV. International Medical Graduates (IMG's):
  - A. Doctor of Medicine diploma (or its equivalent) without reservations (translation of degree into English by certified translator and notarized if necessary)
  - B. Successfully passed USMLE at first attempt (see above, II C)
  - C. Current and valid ECFMG (Education Council of Foreign Medical Graduates) certificate.
  - D. Letter from residency program director (if applicable)

- E. Acceptable explanation of any break in education (if applicable)
- F. Demonstrated written and spoken fluency in English language
- G. Proof of citizenship or resident alien status as required by Florida Hospital Human Resources

V. Application

- A. Completed application

VI. Reasons for Ineligibility:

- A. Applicant does not demonstrate sufficient commitment to the specialty of Minimally Invasive Surgery
- B. Quality of personal statement (content, typographical and grammatical errors), indicates inattention to detail and lack of focus on specialty.
- C. Limited verbal and written skills in English language, including but not limited to inability to write clearly and legibly.

VII. Ineligible candidates will not be offered an interview or accepted.

VIII. Applicants must have successfully participated in formal clinical training, medical school, residency training, or full-time clinical practice.

IX. The Program Director may permit the waiver of one or more of these requirements under special circumstances.

X. Surgical Simulation Fellowship Program Details

A. Eligibility:

- a. Faculty from academic institutions are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be an MD and be enrolled or have completed a residency in any surgically-oriented field. International candidates with the intent on developing a simulation center/program in their home country are encouraged to apply; evidence from the candidate's institution indicating their wish for applicant to lead their SIM program is required.
- b. If a medical license is not obtained, there is an option to be accepted as "SLS Research Fellow" for a one year or two-year period without the opportunity to have direct patient contact. Additional specific documentation for the individual Fellowship Program may be required.

B. Requirements

- a. Applicants are asked to provide the following:
  - A current curriculum vitae;
  - A personal statement explaining why they are pursuing this fellowship;
  - A letter of recommendation from their institution (including their interest for the applicant to lead their SIM program);
  - A letter of recommendation from a colleague;
  - If English is a second language, TOEFL or IELTS exam scores.

**Selection:**

I. Application must be complete (including letters of recommendation) by October 1st and applicant must meet eligibility requirements in order to be considered for interview.

II. If interview is offered, applicant will be contacted via letter, telephone, or email and applicant will



be instructed to contact the center office to arrange for an appointment.

III. Interviews will take place between October- February

IV. Each interviewer completes an evaluation form which includes for areas:

- A. Professional direction
- B. Personal characteristics and interpersonal communication skills
- C. Clinical competence
- D. Overall potential as a fellow in our program.

The scores are calculated and summarized (Interview Composite Score)

V. The files are reviewed and screened by the Program Director. The following criteria are utilized.

- A. Personal Statement
- B. USMLE scores
- C. Letters of recommendation

The scores are calculated and summarized (Screening Composite Score)

VI. The Program Director meets with the MIS faculty and fellows to review the file and all interview results for each candidate and a rank list is created.

VII. All applicants who have been interviewed will be reviewed for ranking by the selection committee.

VIII. The Program Director will contact applicants to determine continued level of interest and to answer any questions.

IX. New fellows who have been selected will be sent a Letter of Intent, sample contract, and other required documents and information. Required documents will include malpractice application, training license application, and Program Manual. These applications must be completed and returned to the Coordinator within four weeks of receipt.

X. Final personalized contracts are prepared and forwarded to the new fellows within the 30 days.

XI. Orientation schedules, dates and requirements are sent to the new fellows as soon as they become available.

## Society for Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgeons

### Fellowship in Specialized Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery (SMIRS)

#### Preceptor and Institution Agreement

Name of institution:

Institution's address:

Type of subspecialty training offered:

Average number of procedures per year:

Number of days in the OR per week:

Number of fellows the program can accommodate:

Electronic signature of preceptor:

Preceptor's full name and title:

Preceptor's email address:

Today's Date:

Electronic signature of institution representative:

Institution representative's full name and title:

Institution representative's email address:

Today's Date:

Please submit form via email to [Info@SLS.org](mailto:Info@SLS.org) or fax to (305) 667-4123 for application review. If the program is accepted into the SLS minimally invasive surgery subspecialty-training program, there will be a one-time \$1500 application fee will be assessed. Approved Fellowship sites will pay \$3,000 for SLS administration of the clearinghouse functions, which will be billed to the program annually and prior to renewal each year. SLS SMIRS

Fellowship Program information and contracts will be mailed to the institution/site/preceptor for review and signature thereafter.