

**Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons  
Fellowship in Specialized Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery (SMIRS)  
Fellowship Guidelines**

**Vision:** To provide specialized advanced minimally invasive, simulation and robotic surgical fellowships in different surgical disciplines.

**Purpose:** Provide opportunities for Fellows to gain multispecialty and multidisciplinary experience post residency, at centers of excellence with proven track records.

**Background:** There are currently fellowships at specialty-specific organizations but there is a demand among graduating residents in surgery, OB/GYN and urology for advanced training and experience opportunities in Laparoscopic / Robotic surgery and simulation. SLS will function as a clearinghouse to showcase these Fellowship opportunities and help match those interested in applying to these programs.

**Fellowship Program Overview:** SLS Fellowships are post-graduate training programs for surgeons interested in learning advanced minimally invasive surgical, robotic surgical and/or simulation techniques at centers specializing in specific areas. Applicants to these programs include GENERAL Surgeons, OB/GYN, or UROLOGIC surgeons, recent residency graduates, former or graduating Fellows from other programs who seek additional extensive training concentrated in a specialized area of surgery. The institutions and programs applying to SLS to offer these programs for Fellows, apply to be included in the group of SLS SMIRS Fellowships. Once accepted, SLS functions as a clearinghouse whereby SLS would promote the fellowship program, and “match” applicants to the sites offering the programs. Those applying for a Fellowship through the clearinghouse will be able to indicate their preferred center or site. The sites offering the programs will make an independent decision regarding acceptance of candidates referred through the clearinghouse.

SLS will not certify and is not responsible for the training experience content, or ability of the student (Fellow) in regards to learned content or skill set after having participated in the fellowship experience(s).

**Sponsoring Site Application Process:** Centers/Preceptors interested in offering Fellowship training must apply to SLS for consideration, using an online application process. These Centers will be reviewed and approved by the SLS Fellowship Committee and the Board of Directors. Applicant Sites must provide the following information:

1. An overview of the proposed program
2. Director contact information
3. Fellowship timeline
4. Overview of program funding
5. An explanation of the program details and the multidisciplinary nature of the Program
6. Learning objectives
7. The evaluation process for both Fellows and Preceptors

**Costs & Fees:** Applicant Fellowship sites will pay a \$1,500 application fee. 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. Applicants for Fellowship positions at these programs will pay a \$350 application fee that is applied to administrative costs and scholarship funding. SLS will advertise the Fellowship programs through its publications, website and conferences. SLS assumes no responsibility for payments or stipends to Fellows accepted and enrolled in the Fellowship programs. The

individual site and/or Center or Preceptor are solely responsible for all stipends, salary and expenses associated with the Fellows and the Fellowship program.

**Review Process:** Applications for Fellowship sites will be reviewed by the Fellowship Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Each approved Fellowship program will be evaluated periodically. Accomplished centers with good track records are preferred. Each approved sponsoring site director will provide a written update to the SLS Board of Directors on an annual basis regarding the status of the program and current and “graduating” Fellow(s). Expansion of Fellowships will be considered based upon performance of the site, evaluations received from Preceptors and Fellows, availability of adequate funding and demand for additional training opportunities.