

FELLOWSHIP DESCRIPTION FOR APPLICANTS
Division of Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
Department of OB-GYN

Director: Gena Dunivan, MD

Associate Director: Sara Cichowski, MD

Address all inquiries to the Program Coordinator:

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Division of Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

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The Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS) fellowship at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC) is primarily located at the University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH) in Albuquerque, New Mexico and has been accredited through the joint boards of ABOG/ABU from 2008-2013, and received a four-year accreditation through ACGME in 2015. The Division is an integral part of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. There is strong collaboration between UNMHSC and subspecialty physicians in Colorectal Surgery, Urology and Gastroenterology. Fellows are exposed to a wide variety of clinical experiences in a collegial atmosphere. The UNMHSC medical school/residency programs are fully accredited by the ACGME and the hospital serves as the tertiary facility for the entire state of New Mexico and Southwestern region of the United States. The OB-GYN Department at UNMHSC provides funding, administrative, and legal support for the fellowship activities including participation in the fellowship match, maintenance of ACGME accreditation of the fellowship and participation in the Clinical and Translational Research scholar's program. The University of New Mexico FPMRS fellowship provides three years of well-rounded clinical and research training. Our primary goal is to train and equip future academic leaders in FPMRS.

Overview:

The fellowship is funded by the UNMHSC with the majority of the clinical activity centered at UNMH hospital and Sandoval Regional Medical Center under the direction of five fellowship-trained subspecialists in FPMRS: Drs. Rebecca Rogers, Yuko Komesu, Gena Dunivan, Peter Jeppson, and Sara Cichowski. We care for patients at three locations: University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH), Sandoval County Regional Medical Center (SRMC), and the Albuquerque Veteran's Administrative Hospital (VA). The fellows are fully supported educationally and administratively in their research endeavors, with free access to biostatisticians and dedicated research time. Fellow's patient care responsibilities are divided between ambulatory clinic care and surgery.

Faculty:

Dr. Rebecca Rogers, MD. Division Director is a graduate of Harvard Medical School and completed her residency and FPMRS fellowship at the University of New Mexico. She is widely respected in the medical community and has many diverse research interests. She developed the only condition specific sexual function questionnaire for pelvic floor disorders, the PISQ, and has received funding from NICHD to evaluate pelvic floor disorders in pregnant and postpartum women and was the UNM site principal investigator for the Pelvic Floor Disorders Network. She is dedicated to medical education and is widely published in the area of teaching surgical skills.

Dr. Yuko Komesu, MD, graduated from University of Michigan Medical School where she also completed her OB-GYN residency. She was in private practice a number of years, and completed her FPMRS fellowship at University of New Mexico. Since completing her fellowship, Dr. Komesu has been recognized nationally for her epidemiologic research into the incidence and remission of incontinence and has secured extramural funding to continue this research. She has an RO1 from NCCIH to investigate mind body connections in urgency urinary incontinence.

Dr. Gena Dunivan, MD, Fellowship Director, graduated medical school from UNM, completed her residency at the University of California, San Diego and her FPMRS fellowship at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Research interests include healthcare disparities research, qualitative methodology, clinical education, and patient centered outcomes. Dr. Dunivan has assumed multiple leadership roles within the institution including the Gynecology Director of Quality and Safety.

Dr. Peter Jeppson, MD, graduated medical school from Saint Louis University. He completed his residency at Case Western MetroHealth/Cleveland Clinic, his FPMRS fellowship at Brown University, and joined the UNM faculty in 2013. He has a keen interest in education, and started an annual fistula rotation in Rwanda, Africa for our fellows. Research interests include medical education and clinical outcomes. He is the associate residency program director.

Dr. Sara Cichowski, MD, graduated medical school from University of Washington. She completed residency at Akron General Hospital, and her FPMRS fellowship at UNM. She has a joint appointment with UNM and the VA. Research interest includes fecal incontinence and pain disorders. She is the associate fellowship program director.

Dr. Frances Alba, MD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery, Division of Urology. She supervises the fellows' urologic experience at SRMC. The SRMC fellows spend one full day a week in the operating room with Dr. Alba performing urologic procedures.

Dr. Rohini McKee, MD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery. She supervises the fellows on their colorectal rotation. She is the NSQIP Champion for UNM and has a special interest in quality and safety outcomes and functional bowel disorders.

Dr. Archana Kaza, MD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology. She supervises and educates the fellows on anorectal manometry and serves as a consultant for complicated patients with anal incontinence and bowel dysfunction.

Fellowship Rotation and Schedules

The fellows' schedule is constantly scrutinized to ensure that the educational experience is optimized. Thus, schedules may change in order to give the fellows the best experience possible.

2017 – 2018 FPMRS BLOCK SCHEDULE

Year	July 2017	August 2017	Sept 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	Mar 2018	Apr 2018	May 2018	June 2018
1 st	Research	UNM	Research	UNM	Research	UNM	SRMC	UNM	SRMC	UNM	Research	UNM
2 nd	SRMC	Research	UNM	SRMC	UNM	SRMC	Research	SRMC	Research	SRMC	URO/VA	SRMC
3 rd	UNM	SRMC	CRS	Research	SRMC	Research	UNM	Research	UNM	Research	UNM	Research

KEY: **UNM** – University of New Mexico / Pessary, UDS, Physical Therapy
CRS – Colorectal Surgery Rotation/ Anorectal manometry
URO/VA – Urology Rotation/VA
SRMC – Sandoval Regional Medical Center

On-Service	Off-Service <i>** Off-Service person covers UNM Clinic Monday & Tuesday except when on Urology or Colorectal</i>	
UNM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday - UNM OR Tuesday - 1st, 3rd & 4th UNM OR; 2nd VA Wednesday – Eubank Clinic Thursday – Admin. Friday – OSIS AM; Eubank Clinic PM 	Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday - Research Tuesday – 1st & 3rd Eubank Clinic; 2nd & 4th Research Wednesday-Friday - Research 	Colorectal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday – SRMC OR Tuesday-Thursday - Colorectal/Anorectal manometry/Research Friday – 1st, 3rd & 4th Anorectal manometry/Admin; 2nd UNM OR
SRMC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday - SRMC OR Tuesday - SRMC OR Urology Wednesday – SRMC Clinic Thursday – Eubank Clinic Friday – 1st, 3rd & 4th Admin; 2nd UNM OR 	Urology/VA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday – VA Cysto Clinic Tuesday – VA Cysto Clinic AM; 1st & 3rd Admin PM; 2nd & 4th Eubank Clinic PM Wednesday – VA OR Thursday – VA OR Friday – 1st, 3rd & 4th Admin; 2nd UNM OR 	

Research:

We have a strong commitment to research in the Division of FPMRS. Fellows have 12 one-month dedicated research blocks over the course of the three years of fellowship. Fellows only have one half day of clinical responsibilities per week averaged over the month during their research months. In addition, while on other rotations, fellows still have one day a week that is dedicated to administrative and scholarly activities to develop and pursue research interests. This culminates into a total of one year of research time within the three-year fellowship. We believe that fellows benefit most from research activities interspersed throughout their three-year fellowship. This mirrors the experience of academicians following fellowships and optimizes both the research and clinical exposure experienced by fellows. In addition, in their last year, fellows are able to start a Master's in Clinical Research or complete a Certificate in Clinical Research, a degree program designed for clinicians. For more information regarding this program please refer to the MSCR's website <http://hsc.unm.edu/som/research/bsgp/mscrabout.shtm> . In accordance with guidelines from the ABOG and ABU, all fellows develop a thesis project which they defend in their third year of fellowship.

Education:

While ACGME does not require formal biostatistics or epidemiology training, Fellows are relieved from clinical duties to participate in UNM's Clinical and Translational Research CTIPS course, as well as the Excellence course. Specific courses can be tailored to fit the needs of individual fellows with the approval of the Fellowship Director.

Additional educational activities include:

1. Didactic weekly seminars: involves all FPMRS fellows and faculty for didactics centered on achieving the current educational objectives recommended by the ABOG/ABU, which include expertise in surgical anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology of the pelvic floor and statistics, study design and study conduct. Current literature is reviewed during a weekly journal club with residents. Present textbooks include "Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery" and "Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery."
2. Division FPMRS meetings weekly for case presentations and discussion of patient management.
3. UNMH OB-GYN grand rounds every Friday morning.
4. Regular research meetings with research mentor.
5. Morbidity and Mortality meeting for FPMRS quarterly.
6. Clinical and Translational Research Center Investigators Program.
7. Online statistical courses

Clinical Experience and Volume:

Over 500 major pelvic reconstructive procedures are performed yearly by the FPMRS service at UNMH, including vaginal, laparoscopic, robotic and abdominal procedures. Clinics are exclusively devoted to the care of women with pelvic floor disorders; less than 5% of the clinical volume is general gynecology. While fellows are at UNM, they operate two days a week, and are involved in 2 clinics per week, reserving 1 day per week for administration/research. The UNMH Division of FPMRS benefits from a state-wide referral system, exposing fellows to wide-ranging clinical problems. Over 50% of the referrals to the service are for women who have failed therapy elsewhere. The FPMRS has a fully equipped Urodynamics lab and fellows have the opportunity to work with Physical Therapists as well as midwives who specialize in pessary fitting within the Division. Finally, all fellows gain expertise in the use of ultrasound to image the pelvic floor under the tutelage of Drs. Rogers and Jeppson.

At SRMC, the fellows operate two and a half days a week, with one to two days of clinic, and a half day to one day for administration and research. SRMC fellows also spend one day in the operating room with Urology. On the off-service rotations with the Colorectal Surgeons and Urologists, fellows work one-on-one in the OR and clinic with the attending physicians.

Administrative Issues:

The FPMRS fellows benefit from the administrative support given by the Division. Attendance of the annual American Urogynecologic Society (AUGS) Scientific Meeting and Society of Gynecologic Surgeons (SGS) is encouraged and financial support is provided by the Division. Attendance at additional meetings is negotiated with the Division Director.

Call:

Fellows do not take any call for general OB/Gyn. Fellows are on house call to cover our service only. Call is split between the three fellows with a faculty member also assigned to call.