

Name of training programme

Colorectal Surgery Fellowship Training Programme

Name of programme director

Asst Professor Bettina Lieske
Senior Consultant, Program Director
Division of Colorectal Surgery
Department of Surgery
National University Hospital

Duration of training programme

12 months

No. of fellows per year:

The division offers a maximum of 2 fellowship positions per year

Objectives of the training programme

This fellowship program aims for general surgeons to gain experience in all aspects of colorectal surgery in a university hospital unit. In addition, we hope to establish international relationships and opportunities for fellows to personally observe and participate in the care of patients with colorectal diseases in Singapore so that they can share their experience with their home countries.

During the 12 months fellowship the candidates will be expected to have obtained:

- Broad experience in operative and clinical management of patients with common
- proctological disorders
- Competency in lower gastrointestinal diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy.
- Comprehensive experience in the preoperative assessment, operative treatment and
- postoperative care of patients with colorectal cancer within the parameters of a well-established multi-disciplinary tumour board

National University Hospital (S) Pte Ltd

5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119074

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- Some exposure and experience in the care and operative management of patients with advanced intra-abdominal malignancy requiring treatments such as peritonectomy, intraoperative chemotherapy and multiorgan resection
- Some exposure and experience in the preoperative assessment, operative treatment and postoperative care of patients presenting with acute colorectal emergencies, including participation in the on call commitments after office hours

Entry requirements

- Applicants must be eligible for temporary registration with Singapore Medical Council
- Applicants must have completed a general surgery residency or equivalent training in their home country
- Applicants must have good communication skills and ability to work in a team
- Applicants must be proficient in spoken and written English
- Prior training in colorectal surgery is preferred but not mandatory

Components of training:

The following are based on estimated caseload for the entire Division of Colorectal Surgery over a period of twelve months:

Operative caseload:

- Approximately 300 major colon resections (laparoscopic, open and robotic) for colorectal cancer and non-malignant conditions
- Approximately 30 complex multi-organ resections/ cytoreductive surgery procedures for locally advanced/ recurrent cancers and peritoneal malignancies
- Approximately 400 anorectal procedures
- 5 all day elective major operating lists/week
- 2 half day ambulatory operating lists/week
- Additional lists available for elective cancer work and emergencies

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Colonoscopies

- 2600 diagnostic colonoscopies
- 800 polypectomies
- Exposure to colonic stent insertions for obstructed colon cancer
- 2-4 endoscopy lists every day, Monday to Friday

Specialist outpatient clinic

- Diagnosis and management of common proctological and colorectal conditions presenting in the outpatient setting
- Pre-operative assessment, post-operative care and surveillance
- It is expected that the fellow will have at least 1 clinic per week, running in tandem with the supervising consultant

On call commitments

- The fellow will join the on call roster to gain experience in the preoperative assessment, operative treatment and postoperative care of patients presenting with acute colorectal emergencies

Academic Curriculum

- Weekly postoperative colorectal morbidity and mortality rounds
- Bi- Monthly postoperative morbidity and mortality meetings in general surgery
- Weekly multidisciplinary tumour board/pathology meeting involving surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, radiologists and specialist nurses.

Rotation(s) to other institution(s) / department (s)

The fellow will only practice in Department of Surgery, Division of Colorectal Surgery, National University Hospital.

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Supervision Method

The fellow would be supervised at all times by a SMC-approved supervisor from Department of Surgery, Division of Colorectal Surgery, National University Hospital only.

Assessment Method

Program director will meet up with the fellow to discuss these assessments on a quarterly basis.

Fellow will evaluate the program and its faculties at the end of the attachments.

Fellow is expected to maintain a case log of all the cases he/she participated in.

Criteria for early termination of trainees from the programme

Deficiencies in the fellow's performance will be initially reviewed by the Program Director.

The Program Director will refer any performance problems to the Fellow's Performance Committee. The Program Director and the Fellow's Performance Committee will act on problems requiring immediate attention.

Feedback mechanism for trainees

Fellow is encouraged to provide direct feedback to the Program Director during the quarterly review and written feedback at 6 months' interval.

Fellow will approach the Head of the division or department for issues related to the Program Director.

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