

## **Columbia University Endocrine Surgery Fellowship Program Description**

### **A. Program Demographics:**

Columbia University Medical Center  
Fellowship in Endocrine Surgery

John D. Allendorf, MD  
Program Director & Assistant Professor of Surgery

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### **B. Introduction**

The Columbia University Clinical Fellowship in Endocrine Surgery has been in existence since 2005 and has had one clinical fellow per year since. The duration of the fellowship is one academic year from the beginning of July through the end of June of the following year. Eligibility requirements include completion in good standing of an accredited residency in general surgery, leading to board eligibility or board certification in surgery. Applicants provide an up to date CV, 3 letters of recommendation and a recent photo. Competitive applicants are selected for an interview and selection is performed in conjunction with the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons fellowship match process. The fellowship is recognized by the fellowship council of the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons. **Application deadline for the 2013-14 fellowship is June 1, 2012.**

Goals and Objectives for Training: Our goal is to help educate the future leaders of endocrine surgery. Fellows will gain a comprehensive understanding of the work-up, operative management, and post-operative care of patients with endocrine surgical disorders. In addition, fellows will conduct novel clinical and/or basic science research in endocrine surgery.

The prior and current fellows are as listed below.

Alex Shifrin – 2005 - 06  
Leaque Ahmed – 2006 - 07  
Shamly Dhiman – 2007 - 08  
Julie McGill – 2008 - 09  
Beth Ann Reimel – 2009 -10  
Philip Smith – 2010 – 11  
Michael Johnston – 2012 - 13

The fellowship program is recognized by the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons and participates in the fellowship match program administered by that organization.

### **C. Resources**

The Section of Endocrine Surgery is staffed by 5 endocrine surgeons each with an area of focus to include thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal, and neuroendocrine pancreas disorders.

John D. Allendorf, MD  
Director, Endocrine Surgery Fellowship Program  
Director, Pancreatic Cyst Surveillance Program

John A. Chabot, MD  
Division Chief, GI/Endocrine Surgery  
Director, Pancreas Center

James A. Lee, MD  
Chief, Endocrine/Thyroid Surgery  
Director, Adrenal Center  
Co-Director, New York Thyroid Center

Beth A. Schrope, MD PhD  
Director, Metabolic & Weight Loss Surgery at Valley Hospital

Yanghee Woo, MD  
*MIS* & Robotic Surgical Oncology

Other teaching faculties include the multiple world-renowned specialists in the Division of Medical Endocrinology who assist in proctoring the Thyroid Neoplasia Clinic and the rotations with the Metabolic Bone Unit, New York Thyroid Center, and Radiologists staffing the endocrine radiology unit.

Facilities where the fellow will rotate include the Columbia-New York Presbyterian Hospital, The Allen Hospital, and Manhattan Diagnostic Radiology.

#### **D. Educational Program – Basic Curriculum**

The Columbia University Endocrine Surgery Fellowship offers a high-volume of experience in thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal, and pancreas surgery. Our annual case volume is as follows: thyroid (>300), parathyroid (>250), adrenal (>30), pancreas (>200), neck dissection (>20). The endocrine surgery fellow will typically perform more than 25 major pancreatic resections during the fellowship. The fellowship emphasizes minimally invasive techniques and the use of local/regional anesthesia. Formal ultrasound certification is sponsored by the fellowship. In addition, the curriculum includes rotations with the Metabolic Bone Unit, New York Thyroid Center endocrinologists, and radiology unit to learn the nuances of the work-up and evaluation from a medical perspective. The fellow will attend and present at the multidisciplinary weekly Medical Endocrinology teaching conferences and the weekly Department of Surgery conference. The fellow will become proficient in fine needle biopsy techniques, intra-operative nerve monitoring and flexible laryngoscopy. The fellow functions much like a junior attending whose responsibilities include managing the multidisciplinary Thyroid Neoplasia Clinic, staffing operative cases, resident and student education, and clinical research. Participation with the basic science lab effort is possible depending on the career goals of the fellow. Our fellows will complete the year with all of the skills to become a leader in the field.

#### **E. Evaluation**

Six months into the program and during the final month of their fellowship program, the fellow is evaluated for their clinical competencies by each of the attendings. Administrative issues such as billing, compliance and documentation are also addressed. Any academic contributions and research initiatives are also evaluated. Our goal is to provide the fellow constructive assessment of their performance and provide follow up training or guidelines for any necessary improvements. These evaluations are signed by the Fellowship Director and the fellow and then placed in their administrative file.