

August 10, 2026

N. Rhea Udyavar, MD, FACS
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Department of Surgery
University of Washington

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
823 Yale Ave N
Mailstop J2-427
Seattle, WA 98109

Office 206-606-7730
Email udyavar@uw.edu

Dear AAES Observership Program Selection Committee,

We are pleased to extend an invitation to Latin American surgeons interested in joining us at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington for an enriching experience in our Endocrine Surgery practice.

Objective: The primary goal of this program is to facilitate knowledge exchange and foster collaboration in the field of Endocrine Surgery. As the Department of Surgery Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, I am dedicated to promoting professional growth, cross-cultural learning, and mentorship/sponsorship for surgeons from diverse backgrounds. The University of Washington Department of Surgery and Endocrine Surgery Section are committed to supporting this goal and welcoming a Latin American surgeon to observe in our clinics and operating rooms.

Program Details: The candidate will fund their own air travel, ground transportation, and room and board. The candidate can apply for a travel fellowship via the AAES and combine the travel to the annual AAES meeting with the observation.

1. Observership Duration: 1-2 weeks

2. Activities:

a. *Outpatient Clinic Observation:* The observer will have the opportunity to shadow endocrine surgeons (Drs. Udyavar and Kurtom). The observation may include exposure to perioperative evaluation of endocrine and surgical oncology diseases, multidisciplinary clinics, and multidisciplinary tumor boards. Opportunity to spend time with our expert endocrinologists and medical oncologists can be arranged upon request and interest.

b. *Operating Room and Procedural Observation:* The observer will be exposed to a variety of endocrine surgical procedures, including thyroidectomy, parathyroidectomy, and adrenalectomy (laparoscopic and robot-assisted) with exposure to the use of intraoperative PTH monitoring, ultrasonography, intraoperative nerve monitoring, and minimally invasive techniques.

3. *Mentorship*: The observer will be paired with one of our two endocrine surgeons guiding and facilitating discussions throughout the observership. We have identified additional faculty members outside the division who are involved in the Latino Surgical Society and are invested in the professional development of Latin American surgeons seeking to gain experience at our institution.

4. *Networking*: The observer will have the chance to interact with our multidisciplinary team, including surgeons, endocrinologists, oncologists, and radiologists, fostering connections, sharing experiences, and participating in our multidisciplinary tumor boards if desired. The observer will have the opportunity to attend departmental Grand Rounds and mortality and morbidity conferences, as well as any other educational activities in the Department.

Support: The University of Washington will offer the following support to the observer:

- Access to hospital facilities and necessary support.
- Assistance with the clearance process for shadowing through our Department of Surgery office.
- A certificate of completion.

Application Process: Interested Latin American surgeons are invited to submit their applications per AAES guidelines, including a CV and a brief statement of interest. UW will partner with the AAES selection committee to review the applications and select the most suitable candidate for this Observership.

We believe that this Observership program will enrich the knowledge and skills of the participating surgeon and strengthen international collaboration in the field of Endocrine Surgery. We look forward to welcoming a Latin American surgeon to the University of Washington in Seattle, WA to share our commitment to excellence in patient care and surgical education.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. We look forward to embracing this opportunity.

Sincerely,



N. Rhea Udyavar, MD, FACS

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgery, Division of General Surgery

Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Department of Surgery

University of Washington & Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

443-401-4052

udyavar@uw.edu