

A message from the director

Thank you for your interest in the Bariatric, Foregut, Hernia, and Abdominal Wall Fellowship at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine and Tampa General Hospital.

We are proud to offer one of the most comprehensive fellowships in the country an experience that is truly unique in surgical education. As the only Fellowship Council–accredited program distinguished across all three domains of bariatric surgery, foregut surgery, and abdominal wall/hernia reconstruction, our fellowship provides an unmatched breadth and depth of training for the next generation of surgical leaders.

Our program accepts two fellows annually and is supported by a nationally recognized faculty of eight surgeons whose expertise spans metabolic and bariatric surgery, advanced foregut and esophageal surgery, complex abdominal wall reconstruction, minimally invasive surgery, robotic surgery, and advanced endoscopy. Together, our faculty perform a high volume of complex procedures and are actively shaping the future of gastrointestinal surgery through research, innovation, education, and leadership within the specialty.

At the center of our program is a commitment to clinical excellence and innovation. Fellows gain extensive experience in laparoscopic, robotic, open, and revisional procedures while working alongside a multidisciplinary team that includes experts in bariatric medicine, nutrition, psychology, cardiology, pulmonology, endocrinology, advanced practice providers, and surgical residents. This collaborative environment mirrors the modern practice of complex gastrointestinal surgery and prepares fellows to excel in both academic and private practice settings.

The curriculum encompasses the full spectrum of bariatric and metabolic surgery, advanced foregut and esophageal surgery, abdominal wall reconstruction, and diagnostic and therapeutic bariatric endoscopy. Fellows also participate in a structured esophageal motility program with hands-on experience in manometry, pH testing, impedance studies, and radiographic swallow interpretation. Clinical training is complemented by meaningful participation in quality improvement initiatives, MBSAQIP accreditation efforts, outcomes research, and scholarly activity with opportunities to present at national and international meetings.

A defining feature of our fellowship is the progressive autonomy afforded to trainees. Fellows are integral members of the surgical team, actively participating in operative decision-making, resident education, outpatient clinics, inpatient management, and multidisciplinary conferences. Research opportunities are tailored to each fellow's individual career goals, whether pursuing academic surgery, leadership positions, or advanced clinical practice.

As Fellowship Director, I am passionate about training surgeons who will not only master the technical aspects of surgery, but who will also become innovators, educators, and leaders in our field. Throughout my career, I have remained dedicated to advancing the science of foregut and bariatric surgery, mentoring young surgeons, and developing new techniques that improve patient outcomes. Our faculty shares this commitment, creating an environment where fellows receive exceptional mentorship from leaders who are actively influencing the direction of gastrointestinal surgery nationwide.

Thank you for considering our fellowship program.

Christopher DuCoin, MD, MPH, FACS, FASMBS
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Christopher DuCoin, MD, MPH, FACS, FASMBS

Digestive Diseases Institute, Chief Fellowship Program Director

Director of Bariatric Surgery Chief, Section of Bariatric and MIS Surgery

GERD & Esophageal Program Director

Expertise in Foregut surgery, Bariatric surgery, and advanced surgical endoscopy. Respected internationally for his work with GERD, and its' interplay between obesity and esophageal cancer. A national leader in robotic surgery and one of the top teachers in the country for minimally invasive and robotic procedures.



Salvatore Docimo Jr., DO, MBA, FASBMS, FACS

Associate Program Director Fellowship

Associate Professor of Surgery, Section Chief of Abdominal Wall Surgery

Vice Chair of Surgery: Quality, Foregut & Bariatric Surgery

Dr. Docimo specializes in bariatric surgery, complex abdominal wall reconstruction (AWR), hernia repair and advanced therapeutic endoscopy services.

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Michael Albrink, MD

General Surgery

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Francesca Dimou, MD, MS, FASMBS, FACS

Medical Director, Bariatric Center

Associate Professor of Surgery

Within the GI Surgery division, Dr. Dimou specializes in primary, complex, and revisional bariatric surgery, foregut surgery, and endoscopy services.

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Michael Kachmar, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery

Dr. Kachmar's practice focuses on primary and revisional bariatric surgery, including gastric sleeve and gastric bypass, as well as minimally invasive weight loss surgery using advanced laparoscopic and robotic techniques.

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Adham Saad, MD

General Surgery Program Director

Director of the USF Hernia Center

Dr. Saad's clinical practice is comprised of benign and malignant diseases of the Upper GI tract where he serves as faculty in the USF Joy McCann Culverhouse Center for Swallowing Disorders as well as Abdominal Wall Reconstruction/Hernia

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**Joseph Sujka,
MD**

General Surgery

Assistant Professor of Surgery at the USF Morsani College of Medicine.

Within the GI Surgery division, Dr. Sujka specializes in Gastroparesis and Minimally invasive surgery.

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**Monica Polcz,
MD, MS**

Assistant Professor of Surgery at the USF Morsani College of Medicine.

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