

GW Female Sexual Medicine Fellowship

I. Overview:

The George Washington University (GWU) School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (OBGYN) is pleased to offer a one year fellowship in Female Sexual Medicine. This fellowship is designed to provide OBGYN physicians a high volume clinical experience in comprehensive sexual health, supported by participation in research, education, and close mentorship within the Sexual Health and Gender Affirmation (SAGA) Center. The program's purpose is to provide motivated physicians the skills and expertise to offer sexual medicine services in academic and insurance-based settings. This fellowship is intended for OBGYNs who intend to pursue careers in sexual medicine for patients assigned female at birth; however, participants will also graduate with exposure to gender diverse patient care. In addition, graduates are expected to participate in general OBGYN clinics and inpatient Labor and Delivery call.

This program has been designed based off of the core learning objectives outlined by the International Society of Women's Sexual Health (ISSWSH) and prioritizes advocacy and equitable care for racial and gender minorities.

The overarching sexual medicine concepts covered within the year-long fellowship include:

1. Healthy sexual function in females assigned at birth and gender diverse individuals
2. Evaluation and treatment of sexual health disorders (including desire, arousal, orgasm, and pain)
3. Evaluation and treatment of vulvovaginal disorders including dermatologic, inflammatory, and (pre)malignant conditions
4. Surgical management of common vulvovaginal and sexual disorders
5. Trauma informed and inclusive care practices
6. Research design, presentation, and manuscript preparation

The program participant is expected to attend the ISSWSH Fall Course. They are expected to submit and present at least one abstract at a sexual health scientific conference and to complete a scholarly project during the academic year. Additionally, they will participate in ongoing SAGA Center research projects. Fellows will work closely with a faculty mentor and the fellowship directors and participate in regular conferences and workshops within the Department of OBGYN. Clinical assignments will be required and will be at the discretion of the Director of the SAGA Center and OBGYN Department Chair. Other educational experiences during the fellowship will be tailored to the interests and experiences of each fellow via an individual plan.

II. Eligibility:

- Qualified applicants will have completed a traditional ACGME accredited OBGYN residency program.

- The Female Sexual Medicine Fellowship is not ACGME accredited, and it does not hold Non- Standard Training (NST) Recognition from the ACGME. As a result, we are not able to accept applicants who require visa sponsorship.

III. Funding:

- Salary and benefits commensurate with each fellow's level of training will be supported by the Medical Faculty Associates (MFA)
- Administrative support will be provided by the Department of OBGYN office
- Conference expenses will be supported by the Department of OBGYN

IV. Curriculum Components:

1. All fellows will participate in an average of 2 days per week of sexual medicine clinical work with SAGA Faculty which will include outpatient and surgical experiences.
 - The comprehensive Goals and Objectives of the Fellowship can be found here.
 - Topics encountered in Sexual Medicine Clinics will be reinforced with readings from the *Textbook of Female Sexual Function and Dysfunction: Diagnosis and Treatment* and relevant scientific literature.
 - Procedures will be taught over the course of the year with close mentorship and a focus on appropriate candidate selection.
 - Documentation and billing skills will be covered during this time as well.
2. All fellows will select an area of concentration which will guide their Fellowship Scholarly Project. This project can include:
 - a. Design and completion of a scientific study
 - b. Design and initiation of a quality improvement (QI) project
 - c. Creation of an educational resource for patients or healthcare workers/clinicians/residents/students
3. Once a Fellowship Scholarly Project has been selected, fellows will work closely with faculty mentors to carry out the necessary steps to design, actualize, and publish the scholarly work in appropriate scientific and educational sources.
4. Other requirements include participation in:
 - a. Independent clinical work totaling about 1-2 days per week.
 - b. Attending Labor and Delivery coverage totaling 24 hours per month
 - c. SAGA Center Team meetings once per month
 - d. SAGA Center Journal Club once every other month
 - e. Quarterly meetings with faculty mentor to discuss progress and 360 evaluations
 - f. Completion of CITI curriculum
 - g. OBGYN Department Grand Rounds, Error Reduction Conference (ERC) and Faculty Development workshops weekly

Sample Weekly Schedule (at the discretion of the Department Chair and Fellowship Directors):

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Sex Med Clinic	Sex Med Clinic	L&D	Independent OBGYN Clinic	Operating Room
PM	Admin/ Research	Sex Med Clinic	Sex Med Clinic	Independent OBGYN Clinic	Admin/ Research

*This is only a sample schedule and the experiences and time dedicated will vary to ensure high quality and balanced clinical and research experiences.

V. Evaluation:

- Fellows will meet at least quarterly with mentors and co-directors to review their progress and discuss written and verbal evaluations
- A final evaluation will be provided
- Fellows will be required to evaluate all aspects of the program. These evaluations will be anonymous

VI. Key Faculty:

- Sarah Cigna, MD, MS, FACOG, IF (Program Director)
- Anita Mikkilineni, MD, FACOG
- Joey Bahng, MD

VII. Application Process:

All applicants must complete the following:

1. A Curriculum Vitae
2. Medical School transcript
3. Three letters of recommendation, including one from your Residency Program Director or Department Chair
4. A personal statement indicating why you wish to participate in this fellowship program and what you plan to contribute to both the GW community as well as your home institution/community after completion of the fellowship.

Please submit all application materials by email to:

Nykhia Betts (nbetts@mfa.gwu.edu) and Sarah Cigna (scigna@mfa.gwu.edu)