Minimally Invasive Uro-Oncology Fellowship

Program Summary
The University of Chicago Medicine
Uro-Oncology Fellowship Program

http://www.suo.org
A. Program Demographics
Name of the Host Institution: University of Chicago Medicine
Program Subspecialty: SUO/MIS Urologic Oncology
Program Address: University of Chicago Medicine, Section of Urology
5841 S. Maryland Ave.-MC6038
Chicago, IL 60637

Contact Telephone Number: (773) 702-3080
Program Fax: (773)702-1001

Directors:

Gary D. Steinberg, MD
gsteinbe@surgery.bsd.uchicago.edu

Arieh L. Shalhav, MD
ashalhav@surgery.bsd.uchicago.edu
**Faculty:**

Gregory P. Zagaja, MD  
gzagaja@surgery.bsd.uchicago.edu

Scott Eggener, MD  
seggener@surgery.bsd.uchicago.edu

Norm Smith, MD  
nsmith1@surgery.bsd.uchicago.edu
B. Introduction

**History:** The fellowship program is part of the Department of Surgery, Section of Urology at the University of Chicago Medicine. Our current website is [http://www.ucurology.org/](http://www.ucurology.org/). Please visit the site to get more information about the urology program.

Officially starting in July, 2003 with the first fellow Gary Chien, MD, the University of Chicago fellowship has grown dramatically. Currently, two fellows are trained annually with large surgical volume, translational and basic science research as well as prospective clinical database outcomes research. Initially a 1-year Society of Endourology fellowship certified program, the current fellowship has evolved into a 2-year commitment under the credentialing of the Society of Uro-Oncology (SUO). We are not participating in the Laparoscopy/Endourology Fellowship program at this time.

Since July 2007, our minimally invasive uro-oncology fellowship has been approved by the Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO) to train 2 fellows per year with a two year commitment. Both clinical and bench research are required for certification.

### UCMC Minimally Invasive Urologic Oncology Fellows - Past and Present -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Current position</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Publications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>Gary W. Chien</td>
<td>Kaiser Permanente, CA, USA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:garywchien@yahoo.com">garywchien@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-06</td>
<td>Marcelo A. Orvieto</td>
<td>University of Chicago, IL, USA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marceloorvieto@yahoo.com">marceloorvieto@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-06</td>
<td>Albert A. Mikhail</td>
<td>Kaiser Permanente, CA, USA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:almikhail@yahoo.com">almikhail@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>Frederick P. Mendiola</td>
<td>Private practice in Philippines</td>
<td><a href="mailto:doceric18th@yahoo.com">doceric18th@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
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<td>Institution</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>Kevin C. Zorn</td>
<td>McGill University Canada</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kevin.zorn@gmail.com">kevin.zorn@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>Ofer N. Gorit</td>
<td>Tel Aviv University Israel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ogofrit@gmail.com">ogofrit@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>Marc S. Chuang</td>
<td>Kaiser Permanente, CA, USA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marc.chuang@sbcglobal.net">marc.chuang@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>Andrew J. Bernstein</td>
<td>Private Practice, Westfield, NJ</td>
<td><a href="mailto:drewstein@yahoo.com">drewstein@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>Michael K. Eng</td>
<td>University of British Columbia, Vancouver Canada</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mkeng@interchange.ubc.ca">mkeng@interchange.ubc.ca</a> <a href="mailto:belikemikeeng@hotmail.com">belikemikeeng@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2009</td>
<td>Mark H. Katz</td>
<td>Boston University Assistant Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:katzmark2@gmail.com">katzmark2@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>Tom Deklaj</td>
<td>Private Practice, Windsor, ON</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TDEKLAJ@dal.ca">TDEKLAJ@dal.ca</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year(s)</td>
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<td>Institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>David Lifshitz</td>
<td>Tel Aviv University, Hasharon medical center</td>
<td><a href="mailto:davidlif@netvision.net.il">davidlif@netvision.net.il</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2007-2011</td>
<td>Sergey Shikanov</td>
<td>Faculty, University of Mexico</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sergeyshikanov@gmail.com">Sergeyshikanov@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2011</td>
<td>Joel DeCastro</td>
<td>Faculty, Columbia University in NYC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gjd16@columbia.edu">gjd16@columbia.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-2011</td>
<td>Gagan Gautam</td>
<td>Senior Consultant &amp; Head of Uro-oncology &amp; Robotic Surgery, Division of Urology &amp; Medanta Vattikuti Institute of Robotic Surgery, Medanta - The Medicity, Gurgaon, Haryana - India</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gagangg@gmail.com">gagangg@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2008-2011</td>
<td>Aria Razmaria</td>
<td>Urology Resident at University of Chicago Residency Program</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aria.razmaria@gmail.com">aria.razmaria@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-2012</td>
<td>Amit Patel</td>
<td>Private Practice in Chicagoland Area</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amitpdoc@gmail.com">amitpdoc@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<td>Email</td>
<td>Role</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-2012</td>
<td>Sandip Prasad</td>
<td>Medical College of South Carolina</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sandip.prasad@gmail.com">sandip.prasad@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2013</td>
<td>Michael Large</td>
<td>Private Practice in Indianapolis, Indiana</td>
<td><a href="mailto:large211@yahoo.com">large211@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2014</td>
<td>Kyle Richards</td>
<td>Current SUO Fellow</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kyle.Richards@uchospitals.edu">Kyle.Richards@uchospitals.edu</a></td>
<td>Publications</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012-2014</td>
<td>Rodrigo Ledezma Rojas</td>
<td>Current SUO Fellow</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rrojas1@surgery.bsd.uchicago.edu">rrojas1@surgery.bsd.uchicago.edu</a></td>
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<td>2013-2015</td>
<td>Sanjay Patel</td>
<td>Current SUO Fellow</td>
<td><a href="mailto:spatel6@surgery.bsd.uchicago.edu">spatel6@surgery.bsd.uchicago.edu</a></td>
<td>Publications</td>
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**Duration:**

The SUO certified fellowship is two years and there are 2 positions currently available for the 2013-2015 years. A separate, 1-year research-based fellowship may also be offered. Please inquire about the availability of the 1-year research fellowship.

**Prerequisite:**

The candidate must have completed an ACGME-accredited or foreign urology training program.
A valid license to practice medicine in the State of Illinois is essential. The candidate must also be fluent in the English language. Previous laparoscopic skills and experience with manuscript writing and publication, as well as statistical analysis is highly suggested.

**Goals and Objectives:**
Training includes all aspects of urologic oncology, laparoscopy and robotic surgery. More specifically, the fellow will be exposed to the following procedures:

- robotic radical prostatectomy
- robotic radical cystoprostatectomy
- laparoscopic radical nephrectomy
- laparoscopic partial nephrectomy
- laparoscopic renal tumor ablation (RFA, cryotherapy)
- laparoscopic nephroureterectomy
- laparoscopic pyeloplasty
- laparoscopic adrenalectomy
- open radical cystectomy with neo-bladder reconstruction
- open retroperitoneal lymph node dissection
- open radical prostatectomy
- open radical/partial nephrectomy
- complex urologic oncology reconstruction

**Clinical Expectation and Surgical Volume:**
Clinical responsibilities include perioperative patient management, data collection, analysis and presentation. Clinic will take place 1 day/week. Aside from research projects, a significant component of daily activity will include operative experience. The fellow will be involved in a large volume of surgeries. Yearly case volumes include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Cases per Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robotic prostatectomy</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open radical nephrectomy</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laparoscopic radical nephrectomy</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open partial nephrectomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laparoscopic partial nephrectomy</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPLND</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radical cystectomy (reconstruction: neo-bladder, ileal conduit)</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robotic Cystectomy</td>
<td>30</td>
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</table>

We have developed the largest **Robotic da Vinci Prostatectomy** experience in the state of Illinois and are the 6th and 7th largest volume program in the USA and world, respectively.

At present, 5 robots are being used. These include:

- SI HD 4 arm system with Dual console and simulator (UChicago, clinical)
- SI HD 4 arm daVinci system (UChicago, clinical)
- S 4-arm daVinci system (UChicago, clinical)
- Standard 4-arm daVinci system (UChicago, clinical)
- Standard 3 arm ((UChicago, research and training)

University of Chicago is among the top:
- 5 Surgical centers in the United States radical cystectomies
- 10 robotic centers in the United States for robotic prostatectomies
- 10 robotic centers in the United States for robotic kidney procedures
- 10 robotic centers in the United States for robotic urologic procedures

The fellow will not be expected to cover call, except on rare occasion. The resident team will specifically be involved with patient rounding.

Research
The urologic oncology fellowship research experience can focus on clinical outcomes, laboratory-based investigation, or procedural research in the large animal lab. Fellows are enrolled in the Clinical Research Training Program (CTRP) a training program focusing on study design, implementation of clinical research, and statistics/epidemiology (http://chess.uchicago.edu/training/sport.html)

The Section of Urology maintains multiple large volume databases of patients treated for urologic cancers and serves as the foundation for clinical outcomes research. We presently collaborate with faculty members of the Department of Epidemiology and Health Economics. We currently have IRB-approved, prospectively collected databases for all patients undergoing prostatectomy, nephrectomy and cystectomy as well as a bio-repository of urologic cancer tissue and blood. All study ideas and design are regularly presented and discussed at a bi-weekly research meeting.

Multiple laboratory-based research opportunities exist under the guidance and mentorship of funded faculty members. Fellows have identified opportunities within the Section and in other Departments, such as Oncology, and The Human Genome Program, depending on their research interests and career goals. Previous projects have included siRNA and urothelial cancer, metastases research, stem cells and prostate cancer, and investigation of a novel protein identified in kidney cancer.

A large animal lab (canine and porcine) is equipped with a DaVinci robot and ancillary staff/equipment to ensure meaningful and innovative studies. Research focuses on development of new procedures and devices for minimally invasive surgery.

A clinical trials office is maintained in conjunction with the Department of Hematology-Oncology and coordinates over 20 active clinical trials. Opportunities are available to design and implement investigator-initiated, funded, hypothesis-based clinical trials.

Regular meetings regarding urologic research include a weekly clinical trials conference and bi-weekly Clinical Outcomes and Translational Research conference. Both meetings are mandatory for research fellows.

The SUO fellows will assist in the collection of clinical data along with research fellows and residents to produce outcomes and translational research studies for both national/international presentation (AUA, WCE, North-Central Section-AUA, SUO, ASCO) and manuscript publication. A laptop computer will
be provided to each fellow as well as personal office space. **At least 3-5 peer-reviewed publications per year are expected.**

**Carrie Rinker-Schaeffer, Ph.D,**
Director of Urologic Research
Professor of Surgery and Obstetrics and Gynecology
Committee of Cancer Biology
Committee on Genetics, Genomics and Systems Biology

**Publications**

Dr. Carrie Rinker-Schaeffer was born in Ohio. She received her B.S. in Chemistry at the University of Cincinnati and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Kentucky. After completing her Ph.D., she pursued her postdoctoral research on the identification of metastasis-suppressor genes for prostate cancer in the laboratory of Dr. John Isaacs at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Dr. Rinker-Schaeffer is among the pioneers in identifying metastasis suppressor genes and their role in cancer metastasis. She focuses on the role of MKK4 as a metastasis suppressor. Her laboratory worked diligently to show that MKK4’s kinase activity is activated within the microenvironment of the metastatic site, causing a concomitant tumor cell growth arrest, accompanied by a successive program of altered gene expression. Her lab continues to establish new paradigms by using MKK4 as a tool to dissect cancer cell-microenvironment interactions, specifically looking at ovarian, prostate and breast cancer.

**Donald Vander Griend, Ph.D.,** Assistant Professor of Surgery/Urology
Director of Urological Stem Cell Research [Publications](#)

Dr. Donald Vander Griend was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan and received his B.S. in Biology from Calvin College. He received his Ph.D. in Cancer Biology from the University of Chicago researching stress signaling pathways and their role in cancer metastasis. From there he conducted a post-doctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins Department of Oncology and the Brady Urological
Institute in the laboratory of Dr. John Isaacs.

Dr. Vander Griend’s research interests are aimed at understanding the function of prostate stem cells and their role in the development of prostate diseases such as prostate cancer and BPH. Dr. Vander Griend’s research focuses on understanding the normal function of the human prostate epithelial stem cell compartment as it relates to (1) stem cell maintenance and tissue turnover, (2) dependence upon androgen and the supporting stroma, and (3) molecular events driving prostate disease.

**Program Certification:**
The 2-year fellowship program is accredited by the SUO ([http://www.societyofurologicconcology.org/](http://www.societyofurologicconcology.org/)).

### C. Resources

#### Teaching staff

**Arieh L. Shalhav, M.D.** *Fritz and Mary Lee Duda Family Professor*
**Chief, Section of Urologic Surgery** Publications

Dr. Shalhav received his B.Sc. and MD degrees from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He completed his internship and urology residency at the Sheba Medical Center, Sackler School of Medicine Tel Aviv University. During his residency he spent one year training at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. After completing his residency, he was a fellow in laparoscopy/endourology at Washington University in St. Louis. At the end of his fellowship, he remained as faculty at Washington University as Assistant Professor of Urology. In July 1999 he became Director of Laparoscopic Urologic Surgery and Assistant Professor of Urology at Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, where he developed one of the most active laparoscopic donor nephrectomy programs in the country. He joined the faculty at the University of Chicago as the Director of Laparoscopic Urologic Surgery in 2002. He developed one of the most prominent minimally invasive urology programs in the country. Dr. Shalhav oversees research, as well as the minimally invasive operative experience of the fellows. The fellow will be guided through his/her research projects from the start of a hypothesis to the development of a methodology, to finally collecting and analyzing the data. In the operating room, the fellow will learn the techniques of advanced laparoscopic and robotic urology when operating with Dr. Shalhav. This includes operating on the adrenal, kidney and the prostate gland. The fellow will also be involved with inpatient and outpatient management.

**Gary D. Steinberg, M.D., F.A.C.S.** *Bruce and Beth White Family Professor of Urology*  
**Chief of Urologic Oncology** Publications

Dr. Steinberg was born and raised in suburban Chicago. He attended Johns Hopkins as an Undergraduate and The University of Chicago Medical School. He received his surgical and urological training at the Johns Hopkins Hospitals and Medical School in Baltimore, Maryland. While at Johns Hopkins he was an American Cancer Society Clinical Fellow in Urologic Oncology.

Dr. Steinberg has been on the faculty of the Department of Surgery/Urology since 1994, and is the Director of Urologic Oncology. He is actively involved in developing and performing innovative surgical procedures for patients with bladder, kidney, testicular and prostate cancer. He performs a large number of continent urinary reconstructions in men and women who have their bladder removed for cancer. He is also actively involved in a number of clinical trials testing newer treatments for urologic
cancers, especially locally advanced bladder and kidney cancer. Recently he embarked on a robotic radical cystectomy program and has already performed over 30 cases. He is currently the Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network as well as a number of other leadership positions in bladder cancer research and treatment. He is on the Executive Steering Committee of the Bladder Cancer Research Network and the Annual Bladder Cancer Think Tank Meeting.

**Gregory P. Zagaja, M.D.** Associate Professor of Surgery/Urology
Director of the Prostate Cancer Program Associate Director of the Residency Program and Student Clerkship
**Publications**

Dr. Gregory Zagaja was born in Connecticut. He received his undergraduate degree at Quinnipiac College and his M.D. from University College Galway School of Medicine. He completed his general surgical training at Johns Hopkins and his urology residency at the University of Chicago. Dr. Zagaja joined our faculty in July 1998. He is an outstanding clinician whose primary interest is urologic oncology. He directs the prostate cancer program and is considered a national leader in robotic surgery of the prostate. To date, Dr. Zagaja has performed over 2000 robotic prostatectomies. His research interests are clinical outcomes associated with robotic prostatectomy, chemoprevention of prostate cancer and polyphenon E, and outcomes related to SPT catheter drainage after radical prostatectomy.

**Scott E. Eggener, M.D.** Assistant Professor of Surgery/Urology
Co-Director, Urologic Oncology Fellowship Program **Publications**
Director, Urology Outcomes and Translational Research

Doctor Eggener attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for his undergraduate education. Following graduation from Stanford University School of Medicine, he received his urologic surgical training at Northwestern University and completed a fellowship in urologic oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He was a recipient of a National Institute of Health training grant during both residency and fellowship.

Doctor Eggener specializes in the care of patients with urologic cancers, utilizing surgical, medical, and non-interventional approaches. His clinical research focuses on improving surgical techniques, and optimizing outcomes. He is the principal investigator on numerous clinical trials for patients with kidney, testicular, and prostate cancer. He is collaborating with Kevin White, PhD from the University of Chicago Genomics Institute on characterizing a novel protein identified in kidney cancer. He has presented his research at national and international meetings, and has over 75 publications and book chapters. He is a reviewer for 15 scientific journals. An active member of IVUMed (International Volunteers in Urology) and the Global Health Initiative at University of Chicago, he has participated in volunteer educational and surgical missions to Congo, Cuba, Honduras, Morocco, Myanmar, Rwanda, and the Palestinian territories.

**Norm D. Smith, MD,** Associate Professor of Surgery/Urology
Co-Director of Urologic Oncology Fellowship Program **Publications**

Dr. Smith grew up in a small gold-mining town Lead, South Dakota. He received his undergraduate degree in English from the University of Notre Dame and then attended Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. Under the mentorship of Dr. John T. Grayhack, he stayed at Northwestern for Urology residency training, followed by an Oncology research fellowship. Dr. Smith joined the faculty at Northwestern and developed major leadership roles as Chief of Urologic Oncology
at Northwestern and Section Head of Northwestern Urology at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. The culmination of these leadership efforts was selection for the prestigious AUA Leadership Program class of 2010-2011. Dr. Smith recently joined faculty at the University of Chicago as Associate Professor and Co-Director of Urologic Oncology with continued specialty interest in Urologic Oncology, particularly clinical and research interests in bladder cancer. Dr. Smith has over 50 peer-reviewed manuscripts including publications in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Clinical Cancer Research* and the *Journal of Urology*.

**Facilities**

The fellowship will be conducted at The University of Chicago Hospitals South Campus in Hyde Park. This is a 554-bed academic medical center which has consistently been ranked by US News and World Reports as one of the best hospitals in the United States. The fellows will operate both at the Duchossois Center for Advanced Medicine and the Center for Care and Discovery (CCD) operating rooms. In February 2013 we began to perform urologic cancer surgery in the CCD, a $750 million “state of the art” hospital with 28 new, spacious operating rooms. In addition, the fellow will be conducting basic science research in the Section of Urology Urologic Research Laboratories as well as the Animal Resources Center (ARC). This is an animal research laboratory with multiple operating rooms, staffed by full-time veterinarians and technicians. The ARC is fully accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC).

**D. Educational Program—Basic Curriculum Summary**

One year of the fellowship consists of mostly clinical responsibilities. The approximate time allotment is 80% clinical and 20% research. The fellow operates and sees patients 4 days per week and is allotted one academic day to specifically perform research. The second year of the fellowship is 80% research and 20% clinical.

As mentioned previously, the fellow will be involved in a large volume of surgeries. Participation in all Section of Urology education and academic activities (including weekly Wednesday morning rounds) will be expected. There is a weekly conference dedicated to fellow didactic education. Over the academic year, all major topics in urologic oncology are covered. Interactive lectures are given by members of the urology, medical oncology, radiation oncology, pathology, and health studies departments. They will also be involved in resident training, research coordination and presentation as well as in training courses conducted by the minimally invasive urologic oncology program. The fellow will be expected to write at least 6 manuscripts (3/year) during the training and present their research at national and international meetings. The fellow is provided with a work station including a computer.

**E. Evaluation**

In addition to the daily feedback between the faculty and the fellow, there will be bi-annual formal written forms filled out by the fellowship directors evaluating the fellows. The fellows will also be evaluating the directors in the same manner.

If you are interested in applying for a fellowship position, please go to the Society of Urologic Oncology website at [http://www.suo.org](http://www.suo.org) and submit your application to Joanne Swanson at jswanson@surgery.bsd.uchicago.edu
TIMELINE

Visit the SUO website: www.suonet.org

Thank you for your interest.