



FOUNDATION *for* SURGICAL FELLOWSHIPS  
2014-2015 **ANNUAL REPORT**



THE FOUNDATION FOR SURGICAL FELLOWSHIPS ENVISIONS  
A WORLD IN WHICH **SURGEONS RECEIVE OPTIMAL EDUCATION  
AND TRAINING** IN ADVANCED SURGICAL TECHNIQUES —  
WITH THE **GOAL OF IMPROVED PATIENT CARE.**

*Dear FSF Friends and Supporters:*

I am honored to serve as President of the Foundation for Surgical Fellowships. Like you, I believe deeply in the importance of fellowships in helping general surgeons master their skills and adopt new life-changing procedures and technology. We share the same end goal of improved patient care – faster, easier recoveries and better outcomes.

In today's healthcare world, fellowships are increasingly more critical to a new surgeon's training. The issues in residency are complex and well documented. In short, general surgery residents are simply not receiving the exposure to the complex procedures that they need. For example, during five years of surgical residency, an average resident will do 90 Minimally Invasive Surgery cases, most of which are relatively less complex cases such as cholecystectomy. In contrast, during one year of fellowship training, a surgeon will do, on average, over 275 complex cases in the chosen discipline. Honing their surgical skills for more complex operations, including pre- and post-operative care, is the primary reason that 80% of surgical residents pursue fellowship training. The Foundation for Surgical Fellowships is the primary independent source of funding for these fellowships.

As you read through our 2014-2015 Annual Report, I hope you will take away two main points. First, that fellowships continue to be a driver in the availability of complex surgical procedures that have a tangible financial and quality of life benefit for patients. Second, that we are grateful to you, our donor, for understanding that funding fellowships now depends on the full community of stakeholders doing their part.

On behalf of the Board, staff and grant recipients of the Foundation, thank you for your dedication and generous support of our mission.

Sincerely,  
Dennis Fowler, MD  
*President*



“FUNDING FELLOWSHIPS  
NOW DEPENDS ON THE  
FULL COMMUNITY OF  
STAKEHOLDERS DOING  
THEIR PART.”

# WHY SURGICAL FELLOWSHIPS MATTER

*Training drives* **300%** *increase in adoption*

According to the results of a survey of 268 former MIS fellows, “the integration of a fellowship-trained MIS colleague into a general surgery practice resulted in a 300% increase in the proportion of appendectomies, ventral hernias, inguinal hernias, and colectomies performed laparoscopically.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Surgical Endoscopy* (2013) 27:1267-1272

**\$14B** *in savings*

“Minimally Invasive Surgery Could Save \$14 Billion,” was the headline of one of the articles published on the potential annual cost savings for six minimally invasive general surgery procedures compared to the comparable open approach. The primary factors are shorter hospital stays, lower infection and complication rates and less employee absenteeism.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>*JAMA Surgery* (2013); 148(7): 641-647

## *High Quality Surgical Outcomes*



Fellowship graduates achieved high-quality surgical outcomes from the very beginning of their post fellowship practices, which are comparable to those of their experienced mentors.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup>*Surgical Endoscopy* (2010) 24:138-144

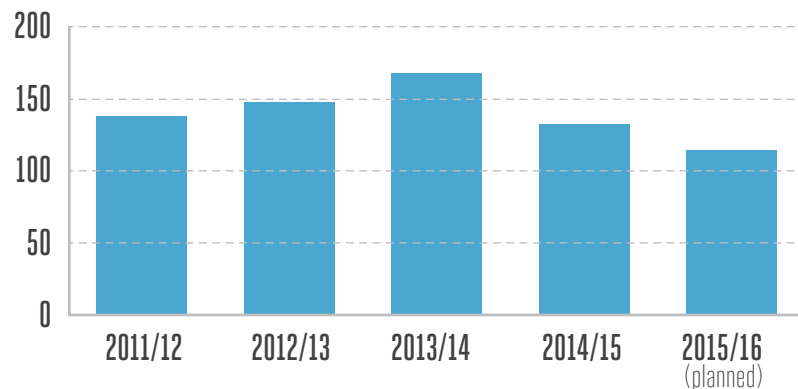


# YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Since it was founded in 2010, the FSF has...

*Funded* **669** *fellowship positions*

## # OF FSF FUNDED POSITIONS PER YEAR:



*Awarded over* **\$36,260,000** *in grants*

“THE FELLOWSHIP STRENGTHENED MY SKILLS WHICH WERE INADEQUATE FOLLOWING RESIDENCY. I WAS ABLE TO INTRODUCE NEW PROCEDURES IN SEVERAL HOSPITALS”

– FORMER FSF FUNDED FELLOW, GREAT FALLS, MT



# FSF AWARD PROCESS

Fellowship programs from across the country apply to the FSF. In a blinded process, the programs are ranked based on the quality of training facilities, methodologies and technologies; the academic, scholarly and innovative activities of faculty and fellows in a given program; and the volume and variety of cases to which fellows are exposed.

An objective scoring process is utilized. Each fellowship program is evaluated and scored in each of three domains: clinical experience, accreditation, and scholarly activity. Programs must be accredited by either the Fellowship Council or the ACGME and achieve a threshold score to be eligible for funding by the FSF.



# 2014-2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

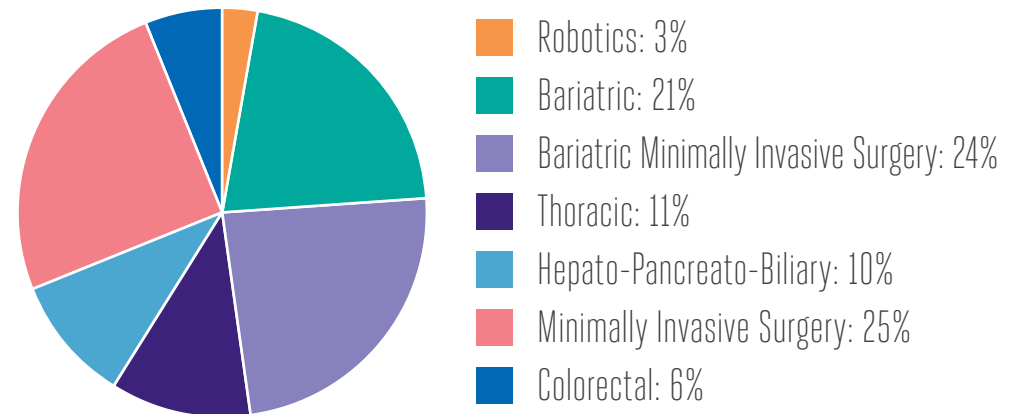
*Fellowship positions applied for: 158*

*Fellowship positions awarded: 113*



*Current and Former FSF-Funded Fellows, FSF Reception, April 2015*

## FSF 2014/2015 ALLOCATION BY SUBSPECIALITY



# 2014-2015 PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENTS

Abington Memorial Hospital  
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital  
Albany Medical Center  
Alta Bates Summit Medical Center  
Atlanta Medical Center  
Baystate Medical Center  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
Brigham & Women's Hospital  
Carolinas Medical Center  
Cedars Sinai Medical Center  
Cleveland Clinic  
Cleveland Clinic Florida  
Colon & Rectal Clinic of Orlando/Orlando Health  
Cuyuna Regional Medical Center  
Duke University  
East Carolina University BSOM  
Emory University Hospital  
Fox Chase Cancer Center  
Geisinger Medical Center  
George Washington University Medical Center  
Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center  
Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation  
Hackensack University Medical Center  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
Indiana University  
Inova Fairfax Hospital  
Jackson South Community Hospital  
Lahey Hospital and Medical Center  
Lankenau Medical Center  
Massachusetts General Hospital

Mayo Clinic Florida  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Methodist Health System  
Methodist Hospital  
Montefiore Medical Center  
North Shore University Hospital  
Northwest Hospital  
Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Orlando Health  
Penn State Hershey Medical Center  
Providence Portland Medical Center  
Rhode Island Hospital  
St Francis Hospital and Medical Center  
Stanford University  
Stony Brook University  
Summa Health System  
Surgix Minimally Invasive Surgery Institute  
Swedish Medical Center  
Texas Endosurgery Institute  
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital  
Tufts Medical Center  
University Hospitals Case Medical Center  
University Medical Centers at Princeton (UMCP)  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
University of Arizona College of Medicine  
University of California Davis  
University of California Fresno

University of California Irvine  
University of California San Diego  
University of California San Francisco  
University of Florida  
University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville  
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics  
University of Kentucky  
University of Louisville/James Graham Brown Cancer Center  
University of Massachusetts Medical School  
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine  
University of Michigan  
University of Missouri  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
University of South Florida  
University of Tennessee College of Medicine  
University of Texas Health Science Center – Houston  
University of Texas HSC Houston – MIST San Antonio  
University of Texas Medical School at Houston  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
University of Virginia Hospital  
University of Washington  
Vanderbilt University  
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine  
Wake Forest University Health Sciences  
Washington University  
Westchester Medical Center

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

## ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORTERS

### *Platinum Benefactors*

Covidien  
Ethicon US, LLC

### *Silver Benefactors*

American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS)  
American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS)  
Applied Medical  
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Intuitive Surgical  
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Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)  
SAGES Foundation

### *Bronze Benefactors*

American Hepateo-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA)  
Davol, A Bard Company  
Sony Medical  
Surgiquest

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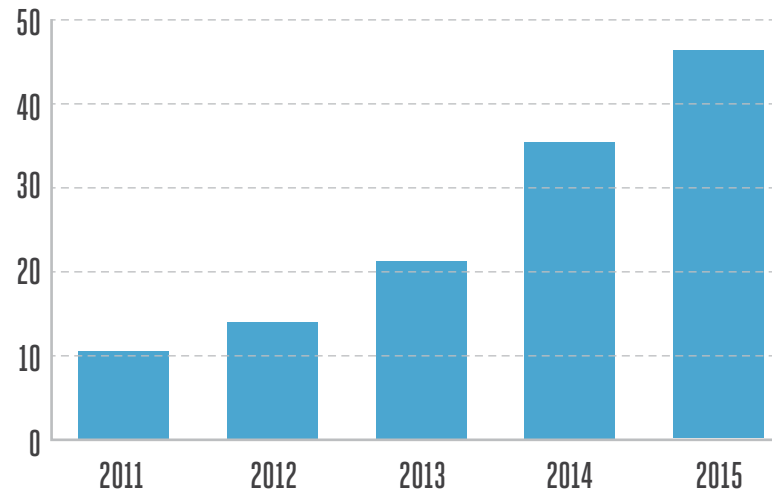
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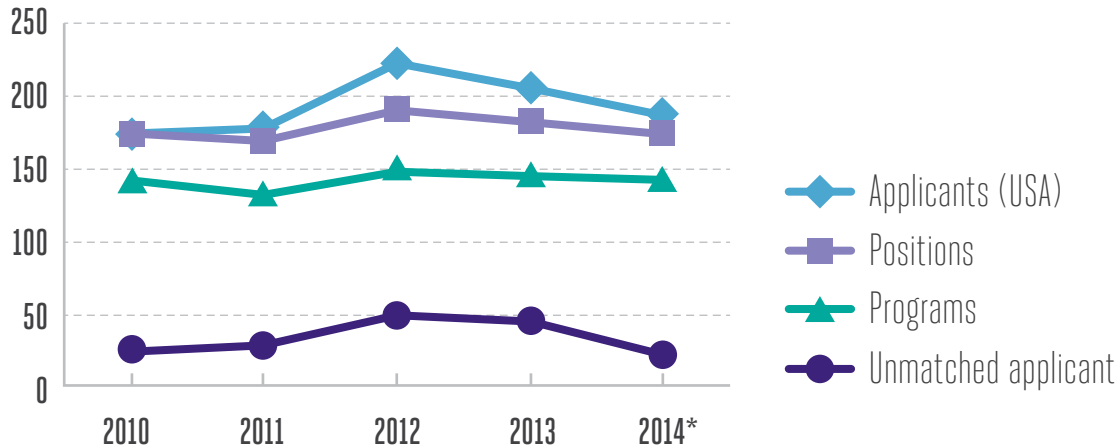
## *Our Donor List is Growing!*





# OUR WORK CONTINUES

For the FSF, our past success is as great as our future challenges. Demand for surgical fellowships continues to exceed available positions. In the last three years, nearly 25% of all certified applicants could not obtain a fellowship position. This is in part because of insufficient funding to support fellowship positions.



Source: Fellowship Council Match Statistics

\*2014 decrease in applicants due to change in match schedule.

While demand remains high, funding for these fellowships is at a crossroads. In prior years, nearly 100% of the Foundation's support came from just a few key industry donors. Those donors have cut back for economic and political reasons, and the FSF has had to make hard choices in terms of the size and scope of our awards. For the 2014-15 academic year, our maximum grant award dropped 20% , from \$62,500 to \$50,000.

Funding fellowships is no longer the purview of just a few large companies, it is the concern of the surgical community as a whole. Industry, societies, foundations as well as individual donors have given their support for which we are truly grateful.

As we continue to seek out and engage new funders, your sustained commitment and generosity are critical to keeping the Foundation strong. Together we can continue to advance surgical care.



# THE FOUNDATION FOR SURGICAL FELLOWSHIPS

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