

Dr. Susan Luong

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Why did you choose this fellowship? I did my residency at Queen's University and had my Urogynecology rotation in early PGY3 and within a week of the rotation, I fell in love with the specialty! I chose to pursue a fellowship in Urogynecology and Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery (UPRS) because I wanted to practice full scope Urogynecology, increase my surgical skills for complex abdominal and pelvic surgery, additional exposure to complex pelvic floor disorders and to learn to manage complications that are specific to our subspecialty.

What are the strengths of/why did you choose your specific fellowship program? I was fortunate to be able to have many elective experiences across the country including BC, Alberta, other centers in Ontario and Halifax and I felt that the program in Ottawa was the best fit for me. We had excellent abdominal and pelvic surgery exposure in Urogynecology at Queen's; however, I wanted additional training in laparoscopy in this field which would complement my skill set to be a well-rounded Urogynecologist. During my 4-week elective here, I saw a combination of laparoscopic surgery, complex mesh excision procedures and vault suspensions, whereas my clinical exposure allowed me to work with a fantastic group of five nurse continence advisors and five fellowship trained Urogynecologists. In addition, we have the opportunity to work with a Urologist who completed a fellowship in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery at New York University, which complements the training very well.

What advice would you give to residents interested in your fellowship program? If you have time in your elective schedule, please come for an elective with us! Reach out to our program director, Dr. Hisham Khalil, to help coordinate the elective. I think it is important to reflect on why you would like to pursue a UPRS fellowship and specifically what additional skills do you want to gain from subspecialty training so you can choose the program that is right for you. We also participate annually in the Canadian Society for Pelvic Medicine's Fellowship night which typically takes place every year in April. This is a great session for residents to check out all the UPRS programs across Canada and fellows from all programs are available for Q&As!

What do you hope your future practice will look like? I would like my future practice to be full scope Urogynecology with some obstetrics. This combination is not typical across the country, but this has been the practice for my mentors and teachers, and I think it's a wonderful blend. I have a strong interest in Quality Improvement and am currently enrolled in the Masters of Healthcare Quality and Science at Queen's University. I envision that I will also continue to be involved in medical leadership in my career. One of the most reassuring aspects as I am nearing the end of my

formal medical training, but also applicable to all my colleagues across the country, is that we have worked hard to get to this stage in our career and we are ready! It is also important to remember that we will continue to learn and grow as clinicians and our vision of an ideal clinical practice will change throughout our careers.