

Combined Banner Health System Endocrine Surgery Observership

The Endocrine Surgery groups within the Banner Health System are pleased to propose a Combined Endocrine Surgery Observership program at our two flagship academic medical centers in Arizona. We are honored to invite an international surgeon selected by the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons (AAES) Observership program committee to join our teams for an immersive clinical, academic, educational experience.

Objective

The primary goal of this observership is to facilitate international knowledge exchange, foster global collaboration, and promote professional growth in advanced endocrine surgery. By providing an elite educational environment across two major metropolitan academic hubs, we aim to strengthen international surgical bonds and share modern techniques in patient care and surgical education.

Program Details

The selected candidate is fully responsible for funding their own travel, lodging, room, and boarding. There are no stipends or honorariums associated with this opportunity. Dependent on the institution's desire and the observer's academic portfolio, an opportunity to provide a lecture at the weekly Grand Rounds

1. **Medical Center Observership Duration:** 1 week (5 working days). Additional social or non-hospital based activities before/after the observership period may occur and will be determined on an individual basis.
2. **Location Structure:** Observers will spend up to 4 days at our primary host site, Banner – University Medical Center Tucson. Observers have the unique opportunity to also spend a portion of their week at Banner – University Medical Center - Phoenix. The number of days at each medical center will vary dependent on the observer's individual learning goals, the host site's clinical and academic offerings during the observership period and planned operative cases.
3. **Activities:**
 - **Clinical Observation:** The observer will shadow our endocrine surgeons in dedicated outpatient clinics. They will gain comprehensive insight into pre- and postoperative management, complex referrals, and re-operative strategies. Extensive exposure to high-resolution, surgeon-performed neck ultrasonography and ultrasound-guided fine-needle aspiration (FNA) is a key feature of this clinical rotation. Radiofrequency ablation cases performed in the outpatient clinic may be performed during this time period but cannot be guaranteed.
 - **Intraoperative Observation:** The observer will be exposed to a variety of endocrine surgical procedures and techniques in our state-of-the-art operating suites. Cases include thyroidectomies, parathyroidectomies, and adrenalectomies. Advanced surgical approaches will feature

minimally invasive open techniques, laparoscopic surgery, robot-assisted transabdominal adrenalectomy, and robot-assisted retroperitoneoscopic adrenalectomy. Neuroendocrine tumors of the pancreas and gastrointestinal tract are performed and the observer will have access to those cases at the Tucson campus dependent on the OR schedule. The host surgeons will discuss the observer's goals in advance and try to schedule cases of particular interest to the observer if feasible.

- **Advanced Surgical Adjuncts:** In the operating room, the observer will witness the integration of cutting-edge surgical technologies, including:
 - True point-of-care intraoperative PTH (iopTH) assay kinetics
 - Intraoperative laryngeal nerve monitoring (IONM)
 - High-resolution intraoperative ultrasound localization
 - Probe-based parathyroid autofluorescence and gamma probe identification
- 4. **Multidisciplinary Tumor Boards & Networking:** The observer will actively participate in our scheduled Multidisciplinary Endocrine Tumor Boards. Neuroendocrine tumors of the pancreas and gastrointestinal tract are also discussed in a multidisciplinary tumor board setting. This offers a unique opportunity to observe and interact with a collaborative network of surgeons, medical endocrinologists, cytopathologists, radiologists, and nuclear medicine specialists reviewing complex malignancies and rare syndromic cases. Beyond the clinic, the observer will have opportunities to network and interact with Banner Health faculty and trainees.
- 5. **Interdisciplinary & Academic Activities:** The observer will have the opportunity to attend Department of Surgery Grand Rounds, Morbidity and Mortality conferences, and endocrine surgery core curriculum blocks. A simulation center is on campus and may be viewed.

Mentorship

- **Tucson campus:** The observer will be paired with the core academic endocrine surgery faculty at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson, who will guide daily clinical discussions and facilitate educational growth. The clinical experience and mentorship will be under the direct supervision of **Barbra Miller, MD**.
- **Phoenix campus:** For time spent at the Phoenix campus, the clinical experience and mentorship will be under the direct supervision of **Mira Milas, MD** and the Phoenix-based endocrine surgery group.

Academic Presentation Opportunities

Banner Health fosters a rich academic environment. On an individual basis, and depending on schedule alignment, the visiting observer may have the opportunity to present their own institutional data, clinical research, or a complex case series at the

Division and/or Department level conferences. This will be discussed with the individual observer after the match has occurred.

Support

The Banner Health System will offer the following support to the visiting surgeon:

- Access to specified hospital clinical facilities, educational conferences, and resources.
- Assistance through the Department of Surgery and Human Resources offices to navigate the clearance process.
- A certificate of completion will be issued by the endocrine surgery program upon completion of the observership.

Compliance and Institutional Requirements

If an applicant is matched with the Banner system for their AAES-sponsored observership, the observership is strictly contingent upon the applicant meeting institutional and federal clearance guidelines for international travelers. All hospital-based requirements must be submitted, processed, and formally approved by the **Banner Health System** offices prior to the start of the observership week.

Requirements differ slightly by medical campus:

- **Banner – University Medical Center Tucson:**

The observer must complete standard clinical observer onboarding documentation, background checks, signed confidentiality and HIPAA agreements, and submit proof of required institutional immunizations and health screenings.

To participate in an observership or shadowing program at Banner Tucson (e.g., Banner - University Medical Center), you must submit a completed Observer Application, a current CV, a government-issued ID, and proof of required health immunizations. Applications must generally be submitted at least 4 to 6 weeks prior to your start date.

Standard Required Paperwork Checklist

Exact paperwork varies slightly by the specific department or the University of Arizona College of Medicine, but you will typically need to prepare:

- **Observer Application Form:** Must include emergency contact details and your specific learning objectives.
- **Letter of Interest:** A brief letter detailing your goals and requested observership dates.
- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** Outlining your prior education, training, and background.
- **Copy of Government-Issued ID:** Driver's license or passport.
- **HIPAA & Confidentiality Agreement:** You will be required to sign and review patient privacy and facility policies. [\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#), [\[3\]](#), [\[4\]](#)

Health & Immunization Requirements

Clinical areas strictly enforce health screenings. Be prepared to provide documentation for: [1]

- **Tuberculosis (TB):** Proof of negative TB screening (often within the last 12 months).
- **Influenza:** Proof of flu vaccination for the current season.
- **Additional Immunizations:** Depending on the unit, you may need records for MMR, Varicella, Hepatitis B, and a recent Tdap.

- **Banner University Medical Center – Phoenix:**

To secure an observership at Banner - University Medical Center Phoenix, you must submit the standardized [Observer Application](#) and signed [Observer Confidentiality Agreement](#) at least 30 days prior to your visit.

A complete observer application packet typically requires the following actionable paperwork and verifications:

- **Observer Application:** Includes your contact details, purpose of the visit, duration, and signatures from both your physician sponsor and the Department Director.
- **Confidentiality Agreement:** Must be signed by the observer (or parent/guardian if a minor) to ensure patient privacy compliance.
- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** An updated resume detailing your prior education, clinical training, and ECFMG status if applicable.
- **Credentials & Transcripts:** Copy of proof of medical licensure in good standing.
- **Immunization Records:** Proof of Covid vaccination, a negative TB test (within the last 365 days), MMR records, and a seasonal flu shot.
- **Identification & Badges:** Copy of a US Government-issued ID or passport. [Once approved, you will be provided a temporary visitor/observer badge from the Security Department, which must be worn at all times.]

Note: Observers are restricted strictly to observation and are not permitted to scrub into surgeries, touch patients, or participate in hands-on care.

Application Process

Interested surgeons are invited to submit their applications to the AAES following established AAES guidelines, including a comprehensive curriculum vitae (CV) and a brief statement of interest. The applications will be reviewed by the appropriate AAES program committee to select the most suitable candidate for this combined Arizona experience.

We look forward to serving as a host institution for this international collaboration, sharing our deep commitment to surgical excellence, patient-centered care, education, research, and collaboration.
