

August 1, 2026

## **UCLA Pan-American Endocrine Surgery Observership**

The UCLA Section of Endocrine Surgery is pleased to offer a Pan-American Endocrine Surgery Observership for a Latin American endocrine surgeon. This immersive educational experience is designed to promote international collaboration, professional development, and the exchange of ideas within one of the highest-volume endocrine surgery programs in the United States.

UCLA Endocrine Surgery performs approximately **1,200 endocrine operations annually**, providing broad exposure to thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal, and endocrine oncologic surgery. Located in Los Angeles, UCLA offers convenient access from throughout Latin America via Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), making it an ideal destination for visiting surgeons and their families.

### **Program Details**

**Duration: 1-2 weeks**

### **Clinical Experience**

Observers will participate in outpatient clinics and operating rooms alongside UCLA Endocrine Surgery faculty:

- **Michael Yeh, MD** (Primary Host)
- **Masha Livhits, MD**
- **James Wu, MD**
- **Kyle Zanicco, MD**

The experience includes evaluation and management of thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal, and endocrine oncology patients, multidisciplinary treatment planning, surgeon-performed ultrasonography, and perioperative decision-making.

Operative exposure includes:

- Thyroidectomy
- Parathyroidectomy
- Adrenalectomy (lateral transabdominal, retroperitoneoscopic)
- Neck dissection
- Reoperative endocrine surgery
- Intraoperative nerve monitoring
- Intraoperative parathyroid hormone monitoring

### **Cadaver Laboratory**

Participants may elect to attend a hands-on cadaver laboratory session focused on **posterior retroperitoneoscopic adrenalectomy**, providing detailed anatomical instruction and practice of operative technique.

### **Thyroid nodule radiofrequency ablation (RFA)**

Participants will have the opportunity to observe RFA procedures performed for large benign nodules, hyperfunctioning nodules, and small papillary thyroid cancers.

### **Mentorship and Education**

The primary faculty mentor will be **Dr. Michael Yeh**, who is fluent in Spanish and a certified medical translator. Daily discussions will focus on operative strategy, clinical decision-making, academic career development, and opportunities for future collaboration.

Observers are welcome to attend Department of Surgery Grand Rounds, multidisciplinary conferences, morbidity and mortality conference, and other educational activities occurring during their visit.

### **UCLA Support**

The UCLA Section of Endocrine Surgery will provide:

- Complimentary housing in a furnished one-bedroom apartment within walking distance of campus
- Ground transportation to and from the airport
- Assistance with observer clearance and onboarding
- Access to UCLA clinical facilities
- Home-cooked dinners with the host family several evenings during the visit
- Weekend sightseeing opportunities at local Southern California attractions

Observers are welcome to bring **up to three accompanying family members**, who may stay in the provided housing.

Participants are responsible for their own airfare to and from Los Angeles.

**Sample week schedule:**

|    | Saturday       | Sunday                        | Monday                       | Tuesday | Wednesday                      | Thursday | Friday    | Saturday      |
|----|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| AM | Inbound travel | Recuperation day, sightseeing | Clinic                       | OR      | Grand rounds, M&M, tumor board | OR       | RFA       | Return travel |
| PM |                | Welcome dinner                | Pathology conference, clinic | OR      | Cadaver lab, research meeting  | OR       | Free time |               |

**Application Process**

Interested Latin American endocrine surgeons may apply through the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons (AAES) Pan-American Observership Program. Applications should include a curriculum vitae and a brief statement of interest in accordance with AAES guidelines.