

Title of Program: Obesity Research
Dept/Center/Lab: Carolinas Weight Management

Principal Mentor: Dimitrios Stefanidis, MD, PhD, FACS, FASMBS
Bariatric Surgeon
Surgical and Research Director, Carolinas Simulation Center
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Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery, University of North Carolina
Carolinas Weight Management

Other Faculty: Keith Gersin, MD, FACS, FASMBS
Chief, Bariatric Surgery
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Carolinas Weight Management

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Director, Bariatric Surgery Fellowship
Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery, University of North Carolina
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Bariatrician
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Summary Description:

Obesity is on the rise in the United States and associated with several medical diseases and increased mortality. Given the number of patients affected by the disease and the significant healthcare costs associated with its treatment great emphasis has been placed nationally on promoting research efforts to identify the most effective treatment options. Carolinas weight management is a multidisciplinary center of excellence for the treatment of obesity. The center offers medical and surgical treatment options for obese patients. In the past year the center's bariatricians and bariatric surgeons saw over 1000 patients and performed over 450 operations. The center prospectively maintains detailed records of all patients which provide access to a great amount of data for research. The center's physicians are actively participating in research that focuses on factors influencing weight loss and complications after bariatric surgery and the effectiveness of medically supervised weight loss programs.

Expectations and Role of Student:

The successful student should have inquisitiveness and be hard working, eager to learn, and work well with others. A great deal of independence is given to the student so it is important to be self-driven and responsible; participation in weekly meetings with faculty mentors is also required. The student will be expected to learn how to conduct hypothesis-driven research on obesity, will become familiar with how to extract data from databases, and how to write abstracts. The student will present oral and written summaries of research and will be required to prepare and present an abstract and paper (or more) summarizing the findings of the research conducted.