
Richard W. Farnam, M.D. FACOG FPMRS

Practice limited to Urogynecology , Robotic Surgery, and Minimally Invasive Gynecology

**Texas Urogynecology and Laser Surgery Center, PA
1700 N. Oregon St. STE. #520, El Paso, Texas 79902
p: (915) 533-5600; f: (915) 533-5604; Drrwfarnam@hotmail.com
www.FarnamMD.com**

Robotic Surgery Expert

Dr. Farnam is one of the nation's leading experts in Robotic Gynecologic surgery. Dr. Farnam is one of only six da Vinci Gynecology Master's course directors in the nation. He is chairman of the robotic Surgery program and director of the Texas Institute for Robotic Surgery at Las Palmas Medical Center. In 2002, he participated in the original trials of robotic surgery in gynecology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, and is one of the first gynecologists in the country to use the technology. Dr. Farnam is an AAGL fellowship graduate, and Co-director of the Texas Tech University AAGL FMIGS fellowship program. He belongs to an exclusive group of Gynecologic Surgeons who have performed over 2000 Robotic surgeries and currently performs over 350 major MIS and Urogynecologic surgeries per year. Dr. Farnam is one of the nation's leading expert in reduced port robotic surgery. Specifically, he is the first gynecologist in the entire country to perform a single incision Robotic hysterectomy. He presented his three-port technique, and subsequent case series at the World Robotic Conferences in 2011 and 2013. Dr. Farnam is the regional expert in the southwestern United States. His patient base travels from every state and over a dozen countries. He is a charter member of the AAGL Special interest group on Robotic surgery and current board member. Dr. Farnam is a member of the COAGS robotic surgery research counsel. In 2009 he won an award for best robotics manuscript at the 38th annual global congress on minimally invasive surgery. Dr. Farnam is a reviewer for the Journal of minimally invasive gynecology, and has also published on robotics in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Farnam also conducted the first human trials of IS-001 ureteral fluorescence in the world 2/2017. Dr. Farnam is Board Certified in OB/GYN and Urogynecology. Dr. Farnam is a six time Patient's Choice award winner and four time Texas Superdoc.

Profile

- Double Board Certified: OB/GYN and Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (Urogynecology)
- Fellowship Board member AAGL Robotic special interest group 2017
- Lead Surgeon on design team for Caldera's Desara TV sling device 2017
- Principal investigator: IS-001 ureteral fluorescence first human trial. 2017
- Clinical director: Southwest Robotic Epicenter
- Chairman: department of minimally invasive surgery at Las Palmas Medical Center
- Director: Texas Institute of Robotic Surgery, El Paso
- Past President: Medical Staff Las Palmas Medical Center 2012-2014
- Clinical Associate Professor: Texas Tech University Health Science Center Paul L. Foster Medical School
- Clinical Associate Professor: Burrell College of Medicine
- Co-director: AAGL fellowship in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery (FMIGS) at Texas Tech Medical Center
- Director: International Observership Program – Heng Chun Hospital, Taiwan
- Designated Surgeon: Center of Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery-Surgical Review Corporation (SRC)
- Faculty: American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG)
- Cleveland Clinic Foundation trained physician
- AAGL Fellowship graduate, award winner, active member, and Co-director of AAGL fellowship
- Board Examiner: OB/GYN Board Preparation Inc.
- Reviewer: Journal of Minimally Invasive Gynecology
- National Proctor: Single Incision Surgery, Advanced laparoscopy, Robotic Surgery, and Urogynecologic Surgery
- Texas Superdoc 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 (awarded to the top 5% of physicians in the state)
- Top 10 Surgeon's in Texas – 2014; American Registry

Education and Experience

Profession

**Associate Clinical Professor Texas Tech Health Science Center
El Paso 7/09 – Present**

**Associate Clinical Professor Burrell College of Osteopathic
Medicine Las Cruces, NM 8/2017 – Present**

**President Texas Urogynecology and Laser Surgery Center 5/06-
Present**

Attending Urogynecologist 6/09- Present
Chief of Staff Las Palmas Medical Center: 1/2012-1/2014

Fellowship Training

Gynecologic Endoscopy Fellowship; 7/05-6/06
**American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists and
Society of Reproductive Surgeons**
Preceptor: Prabhat Ahluwalia, MD
St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Utica, New York
Degree: Advanced GYN Endoscopy and Pelvic Reconstructive
Surgery

Residency Training

Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency; 6/01-6/05
Case Western Reserve University
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Metrohealth Medical Center
Degree: Obstetrics and Gynecology

Medical Education

**University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio-
Medical Branch; 8/97-5/01**
Degree: Doctor of Medicine

Undergraduate

University of Texas at Austin; 8/93-5/97
Degree: Bachelor of Arts Biology
Universidad de Guanajuato, Mexico; 6/96-8/96
Degree: Spanish course credit

Honors and Achievements

Professional

- Fellowship Board member AAGL Robotic special interest group 2017

- Principal investigator ureter fluorescence Phase one trial. Conducted first human IS-001 trial in the world
- Lead Surgeon on design team for Caldera's Desara TV sling device
- 45th AAGL Congress: Invited Faculty: Meet the Professor luncheon
- 43rd AAGL Congress: Invited Course Faculty: Single Site Surgery Surgical Tutorial
- Top 10 Surgeon's in Texas 2014; American Registry
- Invited physician: Medtronic's Pelvic Floor Forum 2014
- Talk of the Town award recipient: OB/GYN physician 2013
- Texas Superdocs Physician 'Rising Star' edition 2013
- Single Site Robotics Colloquium: One of the first five gynecologist in the nation to use the Vespa Single Site Robotic Platform 3/2013
- Da Vinci Gynecologic Surgery Epicenter Director for the Southwestern United States
- Consumer's Research Council of America: 'Top Doc' 2011, 2012, and 2013 Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Invited Speaker: Expert panel on "Reduced Port Robotic Surgery" 2011 WRGC III
- Featured Grand Rounds Speaker University of Oklahoma Tulsa Electrosurgical energy lecture 10/2010
- Interview: Expert Series in Single Incision Surgery by Local ABC and Fox affiliates 8/2010
- Invited Faculty Cine-Med Single Incision Surgery Cadaveric Training course Henderson, Nevada 7/2010
- Invited Faculty Paul L. Foster Medical School at Texas Tech University 5th annual OB/GYN Symposium 5/2010
- Featured instructor University of Washington: Single Incision Gynecology Surgery course and animal lab 3/2010
- Invited Speaker: Expert Panel on "Reduced Port Robotic Surgery" 2010 AAGL Global Congress
- American Registry's Compassionate Doctor Award 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014
- AAGL 2009 Global Congress: Award Winner Category: Best Paper on Robotic Surgery
- American Registry's Patient's Choice Award Winner 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014
- Featured guest faculty: University of Washington SILS clinical immersion program 3/2010
- The first gynecologist in the United States to perform a single incision Robotic Total laparoscopic hysterectomy 3/2009
- The first gynecologist in the state of Texas to perform a single incision Total laparoscopic hysterectomy 12/2008
- Co-Moderator AAGL Global Congress: Advanced Hysteroscopic surgery 11/2008
- Interview: Expert Series in Minimally invasive surgery by Local ABC and Fox affiliates 11/2008

**Medical School
& Residency**

- Best OB/GYN Teaching Resident Award 2003-2004
- Medical School Admissions Committee Member 2000
- Usher for Class of 2000 Commencement 2000
- Class of 2001: Outstanding Vice-President award 1999
- Class of 2001: 'Patch Adams' award 1999
- Student Body Vice-President 1997-1998

Undergraduate

- University of Texas Health Professions Scholarship 1997
- Dean's list scholar 1995 and 1996
- Greek Scholar 1996
- Howard Hughes Research Scholarship 1995
- International Studies Abroad Scholarship 1995

**Extracurricular
activities**

- Volunteer faculty: International Observership: Heng Chun Christian Hospital Ping Tung, Taiwan
- Sponsor: "A night of hope Gala" diabetes benefit 2013, 2014
- Sponsor: SPJ Charity event 2013
- Sponsor: St. Mark's school Fall Fiesta 2013 and 2014
- Silver Sponsor: 'Power of the Purse' Charity event 2012
- Volunteer faculty: Texas Tech University 2009-present
- Reviewer: Journal of Minimally Invasive Gynecology
- Physician Advisory Board Staff: Healthscopes Inc.
- Storz Advance Hysteroscopy Training course and Wet Lab: Boston, 2005
- Annual Cleveland Clinic Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery Training course and Cadaveric anatomy lab. 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004
- Lab instructor for second year student Male Reproductive Lab 2000
- Gabbard House: indigent care clinic volunteer staff, Corpus Christi, TX 1999
- 'Tar Wars': grade school outreach program: educational anti-smoking campaign, Corpus Christi, TX 1999
- UTHSCSA Elective Coursework: Death and Dying elective 1998
- UTHSCSA Elective Coursework: sport Medicine elective 1997

**Professional
Associations**

- American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL)
- American Urogynecology Surgeons (AUGS)
- Society of Reproductive Surgeons (SRS)
- American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG)
- Texas Medical Association

Work Experience

- Texas Urogynecology and Laser Surgery Center, PA: President 2009-present
- Caldera Medical: Independent consultant 2012-present
- Sunwest GYN: Attending Gynecologist: 2006-2009
- OB/GYN Board Prep®: Board Examiner 2008-2014
- Proctor Covidien: Single Incision Surgery, Ligasure electrosurgical energy, and V-loc suture 2008-2012
- Epicenter Director Intuitive Surgical: National surgical education instructor and “best practice” case observation site 2008-present
- Proctor Coloplast: Instructor of Urogynecologic procedures 2013
- Proctor American Medical Systems®: Instruct pelvic reconstructive surgery and incontinence procedures 2008- 2010
- Proctor Conceptus: Essure office based hysteroscopic sterilization 2009-2012
- Speaker Warner Chilcott: Anti-incontinence medication 2009-2013
- Expert Witness: Robotic and MIS surgery 2010-present
- Fellow Minimally invasive GYN: Attended OB/GYN and Family Practice residents 2005-2006
- Resident OB/GYN: 2001-2005
- Gross Anatomy Tutor: Pelvic Anatomy 2000
- Class of 2001 transcription service: Academic lecture scribe 1997-1998
- Neurophysiology tutoring and scribe service: Owner, manager, and tutor 1997
- House of Tutors: Academic lecture scribe and personal tutor 1997

Licensure

- Board Certification: Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery 2013
- Board Certification and Faculty: American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology 2008
- Texas State Medical Board 2006
- USMLE Step III 2005

Research and Publications

- Farnam RW et al. IS-001: Investigating a novel compound for florescent ureteral identification during robotic hysterectomy. SPIE Photonics West. 2018; P10478-34
- Arms, RG, Farnam RW et al. IS-001 Investigating a Novel Compound for Ureteral Identification during Robotic Hysterectomy, J Min Inv Gynecol, 2017 (Vol 24, Number 7 Page S28)
- Lim, P; Farnam R et al. Multicenter analysis comparing robotic, open, laparoscopic, and vaginal hysterectomies performed by high-volume surgeons for benign indications, Int J Gynaecol Obstet. 2016 Jun;133(3):359-64.
- Lopez, S; Farnam R. et al. A Comparison of Outcomes between Robotic-Assisted Single Site Laparoscopy versus LESS for Benign Hysterectomy, J Minim Inv Gynecol 2016; 23:1 84-88
- Farnam, R; Robotic Hysterectomy: three versus four-port technique, a retrospective cohort. Oral Presentation 2013 WRGC V
- R Farnam, K Wagner, P Lowry. Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery. Audio-Digest Foundation Vol 60, Issue 20
- R Farnam. Robotic Single Incision Surgery: Umbilical Incision Technique and Docking procedure. J Minim Invasive Gynecol, 2013 (Vol. 20, Issue 6, Supplement, Page S73)
- R.Farnam. Reduced Port Robotics: Three Port Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy. J Minim Invasive Gynecol, 2011 (Vol. 18, Issue 6, Supplement, Page S91)
- R. Miller, R. Farnam. Comparison of Running V-Loc Suture Versus Interrupted Vicryl Suture for Vaginal Cuff Closure, a Retrospective Cohort Study. J Minim Invasive Gynecol, 2011 (Gynecology Vol. 18, Issue 6, Supplement, Pages S86-S87)
- Farnam RW. Robotic Single-Incision Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy: A Novel Surgical Technique. J. Gynecol Surg; 2011; 27: 87-89
- R. Farnam. Robotic Single Incision Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy: A Novel New Surgical Technique. J Minim Invasive Gynecol, November 2009 (Vol. 16, Issue 6, Supplement, Page S96)
- R. Farnam, Robotic Single Incision Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy: A Novel New Surgical Technique. Oral Presentation 2009 AAGL 38th Global Congress.
- R. Farnam, P. Ahluwalia. The Safety of Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy at a GYN Laparoscopy Fellowship Program: A Comparison of Urinary Tract Complication Rates to Historical Controls. J Minim Invasive Gynecol, 2006 (Gynecology Vol. 13, Issue Supplement)

Presentations

- R. Farnam, W. Todia. The Medical Malpractice Crisis: Can Exorbitant Malpractice Premium Increases Be Attributable to Increasing Malpractice Associated Legal Cost Alone? Oral Presentation 2004. Case Western Resident Research Colloquium
 - R. Farnam, B. Stetzer. Emergency Contraception: Survey of Primary Care Resident Physician's Knowledge, Training, and Prescribing Practices at a Major Urban Hospital. Oral Presentation 2005. Case Western Chief Resident Research Colloquium
 - R. Farnam, G. Bittner. Severed Axonal Fusion with PolyethyleneGlycol solution. Poster Presentation Howard Hughes Research Forum 1996
-
- SPIE Photonics West 2018: Research presentation IS-001
 - AAGL 46th congress: Faculty Robotic lecture/cadaver course
 - AAGL 3rd FMIGS Fellows Surgical Bootcamp: Endometriosis lecture and suture course faculty
 - Instructor: Cooper Surgical sacrocolpopexy lecture series: 4/18, 2/18, 11/17, 10/17
 - Instructor: Intuitive Surgical two-day Advanced lecture course and cadaver lab: 4/18, 3/18, 9/17, 8/17, 5/17, 3/17, 11/16, 10/16, 9/16, 8/16, 6/16, 5/16, 10/15, 8/15, 7/15, 6/15, 5/15, 3/15, 5/15, 4/14
 - Instructor: Applied Medical lecture course and tissue extraction lab: 4/18, 3/18, 2/18, 1/18, 12/17, 7/17, 6/17, 5/17, 2/17, 12/16, 10/16, 7/16
 - AAGL 45th congress Innovations in Robotic Surgery presentation 11/2016
 - AAGL 45th congress: Faculty- laparoscopic suturing course
 - AAGL 45th congress: Faculty: Meet the professor- anatomy of the presacral space.
 - AAGL Global Hysterectomy Summit- Faculty: Performed Live Hysterectomy Telesurgery on large fibroid uterus, San Diego 4/2016
 - Uterosacral vault suspension with V-loc video presentation; AAGL 43rd congress 11/2014
 - Reduced Port and Single Site; AAGL 43rd congress 11/2014
 - Single Site Surgical Tutorial; AAGL 43rd congress 11/2014
 - Single Site Robotic versus Laparoscopic retrospective cohort presentation AAGL 43rd congress 11/2014
 - Urogynecology prolapse surgery, SWAHAP El Paso, TX 11/2014
 - Single Site and Advanced Robotic Technology, Houston, Tx, 11/2014

- Advanced Robotic Surgery: Texas institute for Robotic Surgery, Austin, TX 4/2014
- Updates in Urogynecology CME presentation, El Paso, Tx 4/2014
- Single Site Robotic Surgery AAGL 42nd Congress 2013
- Three port versus Four port Robotics WRCG V Congress 2013
- Reduced Port Robotics: Three Port Surgery 40th AAGL congress 2012
- Reduced Port Robotics: Three Port Surgery WRGC/IGORS 2011
- “Reduced Port Robotic Surgery” Expert Panelist AAGL 39th Global Congress 2010
- “Safety and Electrosurgical Energy” Grand Rounds Speaker University of Oklahoma Tulsa 2010
- “Updates in Surgical Technology in Gynecology” Tulsa County Medical Society 2010
- “Applications of Electrosurgical Energy in Gynecology” Industry sponsored educational program 2010
- “Single Incision Gynecologic Surgery” OB/GYN department meeting Providence Memorial Hospital 2010
- “Minimally Invasive Surgery: Urogynecology” Texas Tech University HSC 5th annual Obstetrics and Gynecology symposium 2010
- “Single Incision Surgery for the Gynecologist” Featured guest faculty University of Washington 3/2010
- “Evolution of Minimally Invasive Gynecology” Featured speaker Texas Tech University HSC Grand Round 2009
- “Advances in women’s health care” Expert panel, Hot Ticket to Women’s Health Series 2009
- “Advances in women health care” Expert panel, Hot Ticket to Women’s Health Series 2008
- “Women’s health and Robotic surgery”, Women’s health seminar series, Las Palmas Medical Center 2008
- “Advances in Minimally Invasive Gynecology”, Expert Education Series, Las Palmas Medical Center 2008
- “Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy”, Chief presentation, Case Western Reserve University 2005
- “Complications of Gynecologic Endoscopy”, Stump the Professor session featuring visiting professor and President of AAGL: Andrew Brill, M.D., Cleveland Clinic Foundation; 12/2004
- “Emergency Contraception: Survey of Primary Care Resident Physician’s Knowledge, Training, and Prescribing Practices at a Major Urban Hospital”. Presented at Cleveland OB/GYN Society Resident Research colloquium 6/05

Languages

English, Spanish

Credentialed Advanced Procedures

Urogynecology: Sacrospinous ligament fixation; Laparoscopic sacral colpopexy, colpocleisis; Incontinence Sling; Retrograde ureteral stent placement; Botox detrusor; urethral bulking; interstim
Office procedures: Cystoscopy; Multichannel urodynamics; Hysteroscopy; Essure® sterilization; Saline infusion sonography; Endometrial Ablation
Laparoscopic procedures; Single Port Surgery; Sacral colpopexy; Burch/MMK; Tubal Reanastomosis; Myomectomy; Total laparoscopic hysterectomy (>2000 procedures); Advanced Endometriosis laser surgery including ureterolysis and pelvic lymphadenectomy; Presacral neurectomy; Uterine suspension; Appendectomy; Bladder and Bowel repair.

References

- **Robert Asgharian, MD.** OB/GYN Staff Del Sol Hospital, El Paso, TX.
- **Prabhat K. Ahluwalia MD.** Director/Preceptor AAGL Advanced Endoscopic Surgery Fellowship, St. Elizabeth's Hospital Women's Laser Treatment Center, 315-823-1111
- **Robert Pollard, MD.** Director Minimally Invasive GYN Surgery, Metrohealth Hospital at Case Western Reserve University. 216-778-7800
- **Jeffrey Mangel, MD.** Division Head Urogynecology, Metrohealth Hospital at Case Western Reserve University. 216-778-5890
- **Kevin Stepp MD.** Director of Urogynecology and MIS, Carolinas Medical Center. 216-402-7516
- **Linda Bradley, MD.** Professor OB/GYN, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation. 216-444-3435