ESPGHAN PAEDIATRIC ENDOSCOPY FELLOWSHIP

SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME | POLICLINICO UMBERTO I

Paediatric Gastroenterology and Liver Unit · Rome, Italy

Programme overview

The Paediatric Gastroenterology and Liver Unit at Sapienza University of Rome, Policlinico Umberto I, offers a structured paediatric digestive endoscopy fellowship primarily designed for Beginner trainees. Individualised, one-to-one supervision supports progressive acquisition of diagnostic endoscopy skills and exposure to therapeutic procedures, tailored to the fellow's experience and learning objectives.

Clinical activity and patient population

The centre performs more than 1,000 paediatric endoscopic procedures per year, with diagnostic and operative endoscopy activity five days per week. Its clinical programmes follow approximately 350 patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), 300 with eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders (EGIDs), and 3,000 with coeliac disease. Approximately 30 outpatient consultations are provided daily; more than 30% of patients come from outside the Lazio region, and more than 25% of consultations involve second opinions.

Endoscopic training – five days per week

- Diagnostic upper gastrointestinal endoscopy and ileocolonoscopy, including biopsy techniques and structured reporting.
- Therapeutic procedures: polypectomy, oesophageal dilation, argon plasma coagulation, foreign body management, gastrointestinal haemostasis, and PEG/PEJ-related procedures.
- Capsule endoscopy (small-bowel, pan-enteric and colon capsule) and device-assisted enteroscopy, according to case availability.
- Innovative techniques, including EndoFLIP (functional lumen imaging probe) and confocal laser endomicroscopy (CLE).

Complementary clinical experience

Fellows can participate in specialist outpatient clinics for IBD, eosinophilic oesophagitis and other EGIDs, coeliac disease and complex gastrointestinal disorders, as well as inpatient consultations and multidisciplinary discussions. Practical involvement is subject to individual competencies and institutional authorisation.

Academic and research opportunities

Sapienza is the coordinating centre for PEnQuIN (Pediatric Endoscopy Quality Indicators Network), an international multicentre study evaluating quality indicators in paediatric digestive endoscopy. The unit is also involved in more than 15 clinical trials of novel therapies. Fellows are encouraged to participate in research and quality-improvement projects, with mentorship towards abstract submission to the ESPGHAN Annual Meeting and potential publication.

Fellowship structure and requirements

Primary offer: 3-month Beginner Fellowship. Training objectives and supervised procedural responsibilities are defined individually, with ongoing competency-based feedback. Attendance and hands-on activities require formal hospital approval, appropriate documentation and insurance in accordance with applicable regulations.

Programme director

Prof. Salvatore Oliva, MD, PhD — Sapienza University of Rome, Policlinico Umberto I.