



John V. Gahagan, MD, FACS, FASCRS

Clinical Associate Professor, Surgery - General Surgery

CLINICAL OFFICE (PRIMARY)

- **Cancer Clinic Pleasanton Department**

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ACADEMIC CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Administrative Contact**

Paula Vera - Administrative Associate

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Bio

BIO

John Gahagan, MD is a Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery in the Section of Colorectal Surgery, and serves as Chief of Surgery at the Stanford Tri-Valley Hospital. He joined Stanford in 2019 to build the Stanford colorectal surgery practice in the East Bay at Stanford Tri-Valley in Pleasanton and at Stanford Health Care – Emeryville. He has training in advanced minimally invasive surgical techniques including robotic and laparoscopic surgery. He has authored several textbook chapters and original articles in peer-reviewed journals. His clinical practice is focused on the surgical treatment of colon and rectal cancers, inflammatory bowel disease (ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease), and benign colon and anorectal diseases (diverticulitis, hemorrhoids, fistulas, fissures). He believes in patient-centered care and multi-disciplinary approach to the treatment of diseases of the colon, rectum and anus.

Outside of his clinical practice, he is involved in surgical education and serves as an Associate Program Director of the Stanford General Surgery Residency Training Program as well as the Site Director for the Stanford Tri-Valley surgery rotation. He serves in various administrative roles, including as a member of the Stanford Tri-Valley Medical Staff Quality Committee and the Stanford Medicine Partners Quality and Credentialing Committee.

CLINICAL FOCUS

- Colon & Rectal Surgery
- Inflammatory Bowel Diseases
- Colorectal Neoplasms
- General Surgery

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Clinical Associate Professor, Surgery - General Surgery

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Program Director, Stanford Colon & Rectal Surgery Residency Program, (2026- present)
- Chief of Surgery, Stanford Tri-Valley Medical Staff, (2025- present)

- Medical Director, Supply Chain, Stanford Tri-Valley, (2025- present)
- Site Director, General Surgery, Stanford Tri-Valley Family Medicine Residency, (2025- present)
- Chair, Operating Room Committee, Stanford Tri-Valley Medical Staff, (2023-2024)
- Associate Program Director, Stanford General Surgery Residency Program, (2022- present)
- Member, Quality Committee, Stanford Tri-Valley Medical Staff, (2022-2025)
- Co-Director, Stanford Tri-Valley Clinical Academy, (2021- present)
- Member, Clinical Competency Committee, Stanford General Surgery Residency Program, (2021- present)
- Member, Quality and Credentialing Committee, Stanford Medicine Partners, (2021- present)
- Member, Resident Selection Committee, Stanford General Surgery Residency Program, (2021- present)
- Site Director, Stanford Tri-Valley/Endoscopy General Surgery Elective, Stanford General Surgery Residency Program, (2021-2025)
- Member, Operating Room Committee, Stanford Tri-Valley Medical Staff, (2020- present)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Quality and Performance Improvement (QPI) Award, Stanford Health Care (2025)
- Best Service Award, PGY3 – Tri-Valley/Endoscopy Service, General Surgery Training Program, Stanford Surgery (2024)
- Sustainability Ambassador Award, Stanford Health Care (2023)
- Best Service Award, PGY3 - ValleyCare Service, General Surgery Training Program, Stanford Surgery (2022)
- Stanford Teaching Resource Initiative – ValleycarE (STRIVE) Grant, Stanford University School of Medicine (2020)
- Chairman’s Award, Teaching, Department of Surgery, UC Irvine (2018)
- First Place, Surgical Jeopardy ABSITE competition, Southern California Chapter American College of Surgeons (2017)
- First Place, Surgical Jeopardy ABSITE competition, Southern California Chapter American College of Surgeons (2016)
- Outstanding Resident Award, Graduate Medical Education, UC Irvine (2016)
- High Distinction in General Scholarship, UC Berkeley (2008)
- Student Commencement Speaker, College of Natural Resources, UC Berkeley (2008)
- Leadership Award, Health Worker Program, UC Berkeley (2006)
- Dean’s List, College of Natural Resources, UC Berkeley (2004-2008)
- Alumni Scholarship Leadership Award, California Alumni Association, UC Berkeley (2004)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, The Association of Program Directors for Colon and Rectal Surgery (2026 - present)
- Member, USMLE Management Committee, National Board of Medical Examiners (2026 - present)
- Associate Question Writer, American Board of Colon & Rectal Surgery (2023 - present)
- Member, The Association of Program Directors in Surgery (2023 - present)
- Member, The Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (2021 - present)
- Member, USMLE Step 3 Test Material Development Committee, National Board of Medical Examiners (2021 - present)
- Member, Residents Committee, American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (2020 - present)
- Member, Young Surgeons Committee, American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (2018 - 2021)
- Fellow, American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (2016 - present)
- Fellow, American College of Surgeons (2012 - present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Medical Education: Wake Forest School of Medicine (2012) NC
- Board Certification, American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery , Colon & Rectal Surgery (2021)
- Board Certification, American Board of Surgery , Surgery (2018)
- Fellowship, New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical College / New York-Presbyterian Columbia University / Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center , Colon & Rectal Surgery (2019)
- Residency, University of California, Irvine , General Surgery (2018)
- MD, Wake Forest University School of Medicine , Medicine (2012)
- BS, University of California, Berkeley , Microbial Biology, High Distinction (2008)

LINKS

- Get a Second Opinion: <https://stanfordhealthcare.org/second-opinion/overview.html>

Research & Scholarship

CLINICAL TRIALS

- MeSenteric SpAring Versus High Ligation Ileocolic Resection for the Prevention of REcurrent Crohn's DiseaSe (SPARES), Recruiting
- Organ Preservation Program Using Short-Course Radiation & FOLFOXIRI in Rectal Cancer, Not Recruiting

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Phase II trial of organ preservation program using short-course radiation and FOLFOXIRI for rectal cancer (SHORT-FOX): Two-Year primary outcome analysis.** *Radiotherapy and oncology : journal of the European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology*
Klebaner, D., Brown, E., Fisher, G. A., Shelton, A., Johnson, T. P., Shaheen, S., Chen, C., Heestand, G., Holden, T., Bien, J., King, D. A., Dawes, A. J., Morris, et al
2025; 207: 110884
- **Stoma Complications.** *Clinics in colon and rectal surgery*
Dawes, A. J., Gahagan, J. V.
2024; 37 (6): 387-397
- **Resident-Applicant Buddy Program Increases Applicant Interest and Program Transparency.** *Journal of surgical education*
Shearer, J., Ngongoni, R. F., Yelorda, K., Nobuhara, C., Lin, D. T., Gahagan, J., Dua, M., Spain, D. A., Liebert, C. A.
2024; 81 (11): 1792-1797
- **Phase II trial of organ preservation program using short-course radiation and FOLFOXIRI for rectal cancer (SHORT-FOX).**
Pollom, E. L., Fisher, G. A., Shelton, A., Johnson, T., Chen, C., Jackson, S., Shaheen, S., Holden, T., Bien, J., King, D., Morris, A. M., Kin, C., Dawes, et al
LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS.2024
- **Using AI and computer vision to analyze technical proficiency in robotic surgery.** *Surgical endoscopy*
Yang, J. H., Goodman, E. D., Dawes, A. J., Gahagan, J. V., Esquivel, M. M., Liebert, C. A., Kin, C., Yeung, S., Gurland, B. H.
2022
- **Improved survival with adjuvant chemotherapy in locally advanced rectal cancer patients treated with preoperative chemoradiation regardless of pathologic response.** *Surgical oncology*
Gahagan, J. V., Whealon, M. D., Phelan, M. J., Mills, S., Jafari, M. D., Carmichael, J. C., Stamos, M. J., Zell, J. A., Pigazzi, A.
2019; 32: 35-40
- **Hand-assisted laparoscopic colon resection: review of literature and technique** *ANNALS OF LAPAROSCOPIC AND ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY*
Gahagan, J. V., Garrett, K. A.

2019; 4

- **Management of Acute Intestinal Ischaemia** *Keighley & Williams' Surgery of the Anus, Rectum and Colon*
Stamos, M. J., Gahagan, J. V.
CRC Press.2019; 4: 1385–1398
- **An Analysis of Risk Factors, Timing of Complications and Readmission after Pancreaticoduodenectomy** *Journal of Gastroenterology, Pancreatology & Liver Disorders*
Gahagan, J. V., Hanna, M. H., Moghadamyeghaneh, Z., Alizadeh, R. F., Nguyen, A., Yamamoto, M., Stamos, M. J., Demirjian, A. N., Imagawa, D. K.
2018
- **Robotic Low Anterior Resection** *SAGES Atlas of Robotic Surgery*
Gahagan, J. V., Pigazzi, A.
Springer.2018: 273–280
- **Volume and outcomes relationship in laparoscopic diaphragmatic hernia repair.** *Surgical endoscopy*
Whealon, M. D., Blondet, J. J., Gahagan, J. V., Phelan, M. J., Nguyen, N. T.
2017; 31 (10): 4224-4230
- **Defining the Role of Minimally Invasive Proctectomy for Locally Advanced Rectal Adenocarcinoma.** *Annals of surgery*
Sujatha-Bhaskar, S., Jafari, M. D., Gahagan, J. V., Inaba, C. S., Koh, C. Y., Mills, S. D., Carmichael, J. C., Stamos, M. J., Pigazzi, A.
2017; 266 (4): 574-581
- **Lymph Node Positivity in Appendiceal Adenocarcinoma: Should Size Matter?** *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*
Gahagan, J. V., Whealon, M. D., Phelan, M. J., Mills, S., Pigazzi, A., Stamos, M. J., Nguyen, N. T., Carmichael, J. C.
2017; 225 (1): 69-75
- **Is Fecal Diversion Needed in Pelvic Anastomoses During Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC)?** *Annals of surgical oncology*
Whealon, M. D., Gahagan, J. V., Sujatha-Bhaskar, S. n., O'Leary, M. P., Selleck, M. n., Dumitra, S. n., Lee, B. n., Senthil, M. n., Pigazzi, A. n.
2017; 24 (8): 2122–28
- **Robotic Abdominoperineal Resection** *Robotic Colon and Rectal Surgery: Principles and Practice*
Hwang, G. S., Gahagan, J. V., Pigazzi, A.
Springer.2017: 49–57
- **Racial Disparities in Access and Outcomes of Cholecystectomy in the United States.** *The American surgeon*
Gahagan, J. V., Hanna, M. H., Whealon, M. D., Maximus, S., Phelan, M. J., Lekawa, M., Barrios, C., Bernal, N. P.
2016; 82 (10): 921-925
- **Analysis of Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography after Positive Intraoperative Cholangiogram: Is It Necessary?** *The American surgeon*
Gahagan, J. V., Maximus, S., Whealon, M. D., Phelan, M. J., Demirjian, A., Joe, V. C.
2016; 82 (10): 985-988
- **Robotic low anterior resection** *SEMINARS IN COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY*
Gahagan, J. V., Pigazzi, A.
2016; 27 (3): 150–54
- **Colorectal Surgery in Patients with HIV and AIDS: Trends and Outcomes over a 10-Year Period in the USA.** *Journal of gastrointestinal surgery : official journal of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract*
Gahagan, J. V., Halabi, W. J., Nguyen, V. Q., Carmichael, J. C., Pigazzi, A., Stamos, M. J., Mills, S. D.
2016; 20 (6): 1239-46
- **Hand-Assisted Laparoscopic Donor Nephrectomy in Complete Situs Inversus.** *Journal of endourology case reports*
Gahagan, J. V., Whealon, M. D., Reddy, U., Foster, C. E., Ichii, H.
2016; 2 (1): 108-10