



# Robert Martin Cunningham

**MB BCh BAO MRCS MPH FACS DABOM**

DOB: 10/11/1986

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## Introduction

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I am a board-certified general surgeon with fellowship-training in bariatric and benign foregut surgery. I am in active bariatric and general surgery practice in Council Bluffs, IA. I hold active medical licenses in Iowa and Nebraska. I founded the bariatric surgery program at my hospital and serve as chair of the surgical services committee. I have performed over 450 bariatric surgeries since fellowship, including complex revisional surgeries.

I was awarded an entrance scholarship to attend University College Dublin School of Medicine in Ireland, where I graduated with honors. I completed Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS) examinations in Ireland after completing my internship at St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin. I then completed general surgery residency in the US between Massachusetts General Hospital and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. I completed an ASMBS-accredited bariatric and foregut fellowship at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA. I hold certificates in bariatric and advanced laparoscopic surgery.

I have spoken at international bariatric conferences and published multiple articles relating to bariatric and general surgery in leading international journals including *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases* (SOARD), *Obesity Surgery* and *Lancet: Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, amongst others (see complete list in the attached curriculum vitae). I maintain active membership of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS), where I actively serve on two national committees. I am also board-certified in obesity medicine through the American Board of Obesity Medicine.

I have previously worked in full-time private bariatric surgery practice in Kansas City before I was recruited to start a new bariatric surgery program at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs in 2025. I have also worked extensively as a general and acute care surgeon managing most aspects of general surgery including endoscopy.

I am familiar with the standard of care as it applies to bariatric and general surgery.

## Board Certification

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### Board Certification in General Surgery

06/04/2019, recertified 10/2025

American Board of Surgery (DABS) Certificate #064839

### Board Certification in Obesity Medicine

12/13/2023- present

American Board of Obesity Medicine (DABOM) Certificate #70021304

## Professional Certifications

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**Certificate in Advanced GI/Minimally Invasive Surgery** 05/2020

Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgery (SAGES)

**Certificate in Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery** 11/2019

American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS)

**Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS) Certification** 7/2013

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)

**ECFMG certification** 10/15/22012

## Residency

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**University of Nebraska Medical Center** Omaha, NE

PGY- III to V Categorical General Surgery Resident 07/01/2015 – 6/30/2018

**Massachusetts General Hospital** Boston, MA

PGY- I & II Preliminary General Surgery Resident 07/01/2013 – 6/30/2015

**Surgical Senior House Officer** 07/01/2012 – 06/30/2013

St. Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4, Republic of Ireland

**Medical and Surgical Internship** 07/01/2011 – 06/30/2012

St. Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4, Republic of Ireland

## Fellowship

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**Fellowship of the American College of Surgeons (FACS)** Boston, MA 10/22/2023

**Geisinger Medical Center** Danville, PA

Fellowship in Bariatric and Advanced Laparoscopic Foregut surgery 08/01/2018 – 07/31/2019

## Medical Education

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**University College Dublin School of Medicine and Medical Science** Dublin, Republic of Ireland

MB ChB BAO (Honors) 09/01/2006 – 06/02/2011

## Postgraduate Education

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**Imperial College London** London, England

Master of Public Health (MPH, Honors)

09/01/2020 – 09/30/2022

## State Licensure/Registration

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### Active medical licences

Iowa Board of Medicine, IA # MD-52296

11/03/2023-current

Nebraska DHHS, NE # 33820

08/06/2021-current

### Inactive medical licenses

Board of Medicine, Pennsylvania #462790

10/12/2017 – 12/31/2020

Kansas State Board of Healing Arts, KS # 04-44988

08/01/2021-12/31/2023

### Previous temporary training licenses

Nebraska State Board of Medicine and Surgery TEP #7412

07/01/2015 - 07/01/2018

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine

04/24/2013 – 07/01/2015

### General Medical Register

7/01/2019 – 06/30/2021

Medical Council of Ireland (MCRN 403527)

## Professional Employment History

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### Bariatric and General Surgeon

07/10/2025 - current

Methodist Jennie Edmundson, Council Bluffs, IA

### General Surgeon

02/12/2024 – 6/30/2025

Unitypoint Clinic St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, Sioux City, IA

### Bariatric and General Surgeon

08/01/2021 – 12/31/2023

Bariatric Center of Kansas City and AdventHealth South Overland Park, Kansas City, KS

### Locum Consultant General Surgeon

01/01/2020 – 04/30/2021

University Hospital Limerick, Dooradoyle, Co. Limerick, Republic of Ireland

### Registrar in General Surgery

09/01/2019 – 12/31/2019

Beacon Hospital, Sandyford, Dublin, Republic of Ireland

## Professional Society Memberships

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American Foregut Society

2025 - present

American Society Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS)

2018 - present

Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)

2018 – present

American College of Surgeons (ACS)

2013 - present

## Awards and scholarships

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**Overseas Elective Scholarship** University College Dublin, Ireland

July 2009

**Summer Student Research Scholarship** University College Dublin, Ireland

July 2008

**Academic Entrance Scholarship** University College Dublin, Ireland

July 2006

### Poster presentations

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1. **Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)** April 2019  
**Cunningham RM**, Kuhn JE, Dove JT, Jones KT, Horsley RD, Gabrielsen JD, Petrick AT, Parker DM *"Gastric bypass with or without cholecystectomy? A 10-year perspective"*
2. **American Society Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) 'ObesityWeek'** Nov 2018  
**Cunningham RM**, Prasad J, Petrosky J, Kuhn J, Wood C, Dove JT, Fluck M, Parker DM, Gabrielsen J, Still C, Petrick A *"Bariatric Surgery in Medicare Patients Younger than 65 is safe and effective"*
3. **Sir Peter Freyer International Surgical Meeting** Galway, Ireland Sept 2012  
**Cunningham RM**, Murray A, Byrne JS, Hammond L, Barry M, Mehigan D, Sheehan S. *"Venous thromboembolism prophylaxis guideline compliance; a pilot study of augmented medication charts"*
4. **Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI) Meeting** Bournemouth,UK May 2008  
**Cunningham R**, McGrath JP, Cunningham FO *"Impact of blood cultures on patient management in a district general hospital"*
5. **University College Dublin Summer Student Research Awards Poster Competition** Dublin, Ireland Sept 2007  
**Cunningham RM**, McGarry, K. *"15-year follow-up study of extended family group with AMP-kinase mutation mimicking hypertrophic cardiomyopathy with Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome"*
  - Awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize

### Oral presentations

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1. **Geisinger Medical Center Surgical Institute Resident and Fellow Research Symposium** Danville, PA April 2019  
**Cunningham RM**, Kuhn JE, Dove JT, Jones KT, Fluck M, Horsley RD, Gabrielsen JD, Petrick AT, Parker DM *"Gastric bypass with or without cholecystectomy? A ten-year perspective"*
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize
2. **American Society Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) Annual Meeting** Nashville, TN Nov 2018  
**Cunningham R**, Prasad J, Petrosky J, Kuhn J, Wood C, Dove JT, Fluck M, Parker DM, Gabrielsen J, Still C, Petrick A *"Why are Bariatric Medicare Patients Younger than 65 Disabled and Does Disability Impact Safety?"*

### Video presentations

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1. **Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI) Charter Day 2020 Video Surgery Meeting**  
Dublin, Ireland

2/2020

**Cunningham RM**, Parker DM *"Laparoscopic management of post-cholecystectomy bile leak"*

**2. Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)** Baltimore, MD 4/2019

Kuhn JE, **Cunningham R**, Gabrielsen J, Petrick A, Parker D. *"Laparoscopic trans-gastric resection of submucosal mass"*

**3. Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)** Baltimore, MD 4/2019

Kuhn JE, **Cunningham R**, Gabrielsen J, Petrick A, Parker D *"Endoscopic placement of GJ feeding tube as a one-step procedure, a novel approach"*

## Publications

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### Abstracts:

1. **Cunningham RM**, McGrath JP, Cunningham FO. Impact of blood cultures on patient management in a district general hospital *Br J Surg* 2008, 95(S3), 87–194. doi: 10.1002/bjs.6225
2. Kuhn J, Petrick A, Fluck M, **Cunningham R**, Vacharathit V, Horsley R, Gabrielsen J, Daouadi M, Parker D, Falvo A. A Propensity Matched Comparison of Gender Impact on Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass Outcomes: redefining the male gender risk *Surg Obes Relat Dis* 15 (2019) S70-S82 doi: 10.1016/j.soard.2019.08.151

### Published case reports:

1. Adler H, **Cunningham R**, Parimkayala R. "Valve failure in an injection port" *Ir J Med Sci*. 2011 Jun;180(2):615. doi: 10.1007/s11845-010-0622-z. Epub 2010 Oct 21.
2. Nicholson MF, Sehgal R, **Cunningham R**, Martin S, Winter DC. "Snapshots in surgery: incidentally discovered cryptorchidism" *Clin Case Rep*. 2014 Oct;2(5):237. doi: 10.1002/ccr3.96. Epub 2014 Sep 15. PMID: 25614818

### Published manuscripts:

1. **Cunningham RM**, Murray A, Byrne JS, Hammond L, Barry M, Mehigan D, Sheehan S. Venous thromboembolism prophylaxis guideline compliance; a pilot study of augmented medication charts *Ir J Medical Science* Jun;184(2):469-74. doi: 10.1007/s11845-014-1148-6. Epub 2014 Jul 15 PMID: 25023126
2. Falvo A, Vacharathit V, Fluck M, Kuhn J, **Cunningham RM**, Petrick A, Parker D Comparison of short-term outcomes following Roux-en-Y gastric bypass in male and female patients using the MBSAQIP database *Surg Obes Relat Dis*. 2020 doi: 10.1016/j.soard.2020.04.045 Epub 2020 May 11
3. Bauman ZM, **Cunningham R**, Hodson A, Shostrom V, Evans CH, Schlitzkus LL. Emergent General Surgery Operations in Patients with Left Ventricular Assist Devices *Am Surg*. Sept 2020; 3134820950683. doi:10.1177/0003134820950683 PMID: 32972206.

4. Toale C, Westby D, O'Callaghan M, Nally D, Burke P, Peirce C, Coffey JC, **Cunningham RM**. Appendicitis and the COVID pandemic; new challenges in the management of a familiar foe. *Br J Surg*. 2020 Nov;107(12):e605-e606. doi: 10.1002/bjs.12058. Epub 2020 Sep 14. PMID: 32924149.
5. COVIDSurg Collaborative. Delaying surgery for patients with a previous SARS-CoV-2 infection. *Br J Surg*. 2020 Nov;107(12):e601-e602. doi: 10.1002/bjs.12050. Epub 2020 Sep 25. PMID: 32974904; PMCID: PMC7537063.
6. COVIDSurg Collaborative. Outcomes from elective colorectal cancer surgery during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic *Colorectal Dis*. 2020 Nov 15;10.1111/codi.15431. doi: 10.1111/codi.15431. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33191669; PMCID: PMC7753519.
7. Glasbey JC, Bhangu A; COVIDSurg Collaborative. Elective Cancer Surgery in COVID-19-Free Surgical Pathways During the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic: An International, Multicenter, Comparative Cohort Study. *J Clin Oncol*. 2020 Oct 6;JCO2001933. doi: 10.1200/JCO.20.01933. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33021869.
8. **Cunningham RM**, Jones KT, Kuhn JE, Dove JT, Horsley RD, Daouadi M, Gabrielsen JD, Petrick AT, Parker DM. Asymptomatic Cholelithiasis and Bariatric Surgery: a comprehensive Long-Term Analysis of the Risks of Biliary Disease in Patients Undergoing Primary Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass *Obes Surg*. 2020 Nov 23. doi: 10.1007/s11695-020-05125-8. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33230759.
9. Coffey JC, Byrnes KG, Walsh DJ, **Cunningham RM**. Update on the mesentery: structure, function, and role in disease. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2022 Jan;7(1):96-106. doi: 10.1016/S2468-1253(21)00179-5. Epub 2021 Nov 22. PMID: 34822760.
10. O'Callaghan M, Toale C, Sheikhi A, Scanlon T, Kavanagh EG, Coffey JC, **Cunningham RM** Emergency General Surgery during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Patterns in Presentation and Management at a Tertiary Referral Centre *Ir Med J*; Vol 114; No. 10; P491 November/December 2021 Published Dec 16, 2021. Available from <https://imj.ie/emergency-general-surgery-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

#### Invited external publication peer review

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|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Obesity Surgery                                    | 6/2025 - present |
| Irish Journal of Medical Science                   | 9/2025           |
| BMC Surgery                                        | 8/2025           |
| Langenbeck's Archives of Surgery (Springer Nature) | 9/2020           |

#### Courses and certificates

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|---------------------------------------------|--------|
| Advanced Trauma Operative Management (ATOM) | 1/2024 |
| Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS)         | 1/2024 |
| BLS/ACLS                                    | 1/2024 |

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|----------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| ASMBS BE-SAFE Endoscopy Certificate                      | 6/2022  |
| RCSI Accredited Certificate in Medical Leadership        | 5/2020  |
| RCS Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient (CCrISP) | 11/2019 |
| Fundamentals of Use of Surgical Energy (FUSE)            | 4/2019  |
| Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES)                 | 5/2017  |
| Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS)               | 4/2016  |
| RCSI Basic Surgical Skills (BSS) Course                  | 4/2012  |

## Committee participation

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|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Chair, Methodist Jennie Edmundson Surgical Services Committee | Jan 2026 - present |
| ASMBS Independent Practice Committee                          | 2025-present       |
| UNMC Acute Care Professional Development Subcommittee         | 2016-18            |
| SVUH Drugs and Therapeutics Review Committee                  | 2012-13            |
| SVUH Intern Representation Committee                          | 2011-12            |
| UCD Medical Society Committee                                 | 2009-10            |

## Hobbies/interests

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Outside of work, I enjoy spending time outdoors with our dogs Kevin and Mavis. My wife and I are avid food enthusiasts and love exploring local cuisine along with expanding our wine palette. I am a keen rugby fan, being a lifelong Ireland and Leinster Rugby supporter. I enjoy playing golf.

## References

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