



Comprehensive International Fellowship In Head And Neck Surgery

*Education and Academic
training - On Line*



*Clinical and surgical training
- On site*



BACKGROUND

In 2014, IFHNOS established the Global On Line Fellowship (GOLF) program to improve the knowledge, and judgment of Head and Neck Surgeons internationally. This very successful program has registered 381 candidates from 48 countries, with 224 candidates having graduated in the past five years. This program, however, is based on improving the theoretical knowledge of the trainees, and tests the depth of their knowledge and clinical decision-making only. There is no clinical, hands-on training component. Therefore, IFHNOS is now launching a comprehensive clinical and academic program, the International Fellowship in Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This comprehensive fellowship program, will require at least one year of hands-on surgical training in an accredited international training center. In addition to this, Fellows are also required to register for and undertake the two-year academic curriculum of the GOLF program and complete all it's written and oral examinations.

ACCREDITATION

For a center to be accredited by the IFHNOS to offer this fellowship, three components are required.

INSTITUTION

To apply for inclusion in the IFHNS program the institution must be:

- a) A tertiary care center that is equipped and staffed to provide comprehensive outpatient and inpatient, diagnostic, therapeutic and supportive care for patients with head and neck tumors.
- b) Multidisciplinary expertise in head and neck surgery, radiation oncology, medical oncology, endocrinology, diagnostic and interventional radiology and nuclear medicine, and head and neck pathology are required.
- c) The center should be capable of performing the full spectrum of head and neck surgical procedures and postoperative care of these patients.
- d) Adequate funding to support salary of the Fellow, at a level commensurate with the year of postgraduate training, prevailing in the region at other institutions. The arrangement for salary support is directly negotiated by the institution/program and the candidate. IFHNOS does not have any financial involvement or commitment in this regard.
- e) Academic affiliation with a University is desirable but not mandatory.
- f) Adequate support for academic activities, including clinical or laboratory research is desirable.
- g) Adequate support staff to assist with

record-keeping, data entry, electronic medical records etc. should be available on site.

THE PROGRAM

**The Fellowship program may be already established or may be a new program
To apply for inclusion in the IFHNS program
the program must be:**

- a) An independent program, or may co-exist with a Residency program in Otolaryngology, General Surgery or Plastic Surgery
- b) If a residency program is concurrently active, there should be sufficient clinical volume to avoid reducing the clinical experience of existing trainees. The Fellowship program may be of one or two years in duration.
- c) The Fellow must participate in the management of at least, 300 patients during the year of Fellowship.
- d) The program should have an integrated multidisciplinary team of Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology, including Radiation Oncology, Medical Oncology, Diagnostic Radiology, Nuclear Medicine, Endocrinology, Pathology, Plastic and Reconstructive surgery, Dentistry and prosthodontics, rehabilitation services and all allied supporting services.



- e) At least three surgeons devoting more than 50% of their clinical practice in Head and Neck surgery should be on the staff, including the Program Director.
- f) Capabilities for microvascular free flap reconstruction should be available in the program.
- g) A minimum of 400 cases of Head and Neck tumors should be managed by the faculty of the program annually.
- h) The candidate should have access to at least 120 surgical cases as primary surgeon, or operating surgeon with supervision by faculty member.
- i) Multidisciplinary tumor boards should take place at least twice a month, where the Fellow presents and participates in the discussion.
- j) The program should encourage and facilitate any clinical or laboratory research activity by the Fellow and support him/her in presenting such study at national or international meetings.

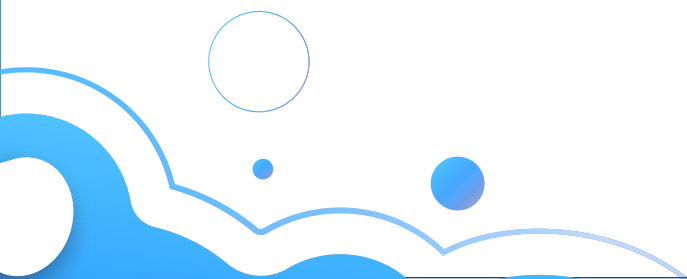
[**Click here to apply for accreditation of your program**](#)



THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The Program Director/Department Chair, should be a well-recognized Head and Neck Surgeon with the following qualifications:

- a) Preferably a Head and Neck Fellowship trained Surgeon.
- b) In the absence of Fellowship training, the Program Director/Department Chair should have at least 10 years of clinical experience in Head and Neck Surgery.
- c) The Program Director/Department Chair should be a recognized Leader in the specialty (i.e. hold institutional, local, regional, national or international leadership positions).
- d) The Program Director should spend the majority of their clinical activity in Head and Neck Surgery.
- e) A University faculty appointment is desirable.
- f) A track record of scholarly activity is required in addition to clinical expertise, with a list of publications included and attached together with a complete CV.
- g) The Program Director is required to attest to the clinical knowledge and surgical capabilities of the trainee in a letter directly to the IFHNOS.





CANDIDATES ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR FELLOWSHIP

Candidates wishing to apply for the IFHNS program must be:

- a) Board-certified or its equivalent in the specialty of Otolaryngology, General Surgery or Plastic Surgery, in their country.
- b) The candidate should have received at least four years of postgraduate surgical training in one of the above specialties with increasing clinical responsibility.
- c) The candidates may apply directly to any approved Fellowship program.
- d) The candidate must meet all licensing requirements to be accepted as a Fellow in the region/country where the candidate is applying for Fellowship.
- e) The candidate must be familiar and proficient with the language being used by people and patients in the region where the Fellowship is hosted.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE FELLOWSHIP

- a) The candidate must register for the IFHNOS Global On Line Fellowship (GOLF) program.
- b) A one or two-year clinical Fellowship may be undertaken, in tandem with the GOLF program.
- c) The candidate must submit his/her surgical log of all the cases completed during the Fellowship, independently or under supervision of a faculty member (minimum 120 cases). This log must be certified by the Program Director. The surgical procedures should be well distributed between mucosal cancers of the Upper GI tract, sinuses, salivary glands, thyroid, parathyroid, skin, soft tissue and bone tumors.
- d) The candidate is required to participate in regular multidisciplinary tumor boards, including actively presenting cases and participating in the decision-making process.
- e) The candidate must pass all the written and oral examinations of the GOLF program.
- f) Upon completion of the GOLF program and IFHNS Fellowship, the candidate will receive a Certificate of "International Fellow in Head and Neck Surgery" and may use the title "IFHNS" after their names.

CORE COMPETENCY MILESTONES

At the conclusion of this Fellowship program, including 1-2 years of clinical training and successful completion of all components of the GOLF program, the candidate should achieve the following:

- 1) Competency in clinical diagnosis, including endoscopic assessment and interpretation of diagnostic imaging, to arrive at an accurate diagnosis and staging of head and neck tumors.
- 2) Sufficient knowledge and judgement to arrive at the most appropriate treatment for each patient.
- 3) Surgical competency to independently conduct common head and neck procedures, including neck dissections, parotidectomy, surgery for oral cancer, thyroid and parathyroid surgery, surgery for larynx, pharynx and sinus cancers and surgical procedures for skin, soft tissue and bone tumors.
- 4) Ability to actively participate and contribute in a multidisciplinary tumor board, for management of complex cases.
- 5) Understanding of the indications and benefits from non-surgical treatments and adjuvant treatments.
- 6) The ability to understand and interpret published literature, biostatistics, data management and the importance of record-keeping and data registries.

- 7) Completion of this Fellowship will prepare the candidate to participate in local, regional, national and international academic activities, and provide opportunities to assume leadership roles.
- 8) Successful completion of this Fellowship will allow the candidate to use the title of “IFHNS” after their name.



For further information, contact

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