



FELLOWSHIP

SOP

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF CARDIOVASCULAR THORACIC SURGEONS



STANDARD OPERATING PROTOCOL
FOR
IACVTS FELLOWSHIP



Dr. Debasis Das



Dr. Jacob Jamesraj



Dr. O.P. Yadava

Task force Version 1.1

Executive Committee



Dr. Satyajit Bose
President



Dr. Jacob Jamesraj
Secretary



Dr. Bijoy Kutty
Joint Secretary & Treasurer



Dr. C.S. Hiremath
Senior Vice President



Dr. O.P. Yadava
Junior Vice President



Dr. Manoj Durairaj
Senior Past President



Dr. Devagourou Velayoudam
Junior Past President



Dr. Pradeep Narayan
Editor-in-Chief



Dr. Siva Muthukumar
Member



Dr. Gunturu Varun
Member



Dr. Ramprassath
Member



Dr. Mohammed Idhrees
Member



Dr. Rakesh Naik
Member



Dr. Vinitha Nair
Member

Foreword

Fellowship programs of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgeons in various subspecialties help young surgeons acquire skills and knowledge in a systematic manner. They are facilitated by the association and a certificate upon successful completion awarded to the candidates. A standard operating protocol with regards to mentor mentee roles, requirements and procedures have been drafted for ease of work. I thank Dr Debasis Das for his untiring work to achieve this. We hope this will help streamline the program and benefit many.

Dr Jacob Jamesraj
Secretary, IACTS

IACTS Fellowship Program

Standard Operating Protocol

STRUCTURE

1. Introduction

The IACTS Fellowship Program aims to provide structured, high-quality, and mentor-guided advanced surgical training in various subspecialties of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery. This SOP outlines the standard procedures to be followed by all stakeholders involved in the fellowship program including fellows, mentors, and host institutions.

2. Objectives

- To provide advanced subspecialty training in following areas:
 - **Coronary: Basic and advanced**
 - **Congenital**
 - **Aortic**
 - **Thoracic Surgery**
 - **Minimal Access Cardiothoracic Surgery**
- To ensure standardized, consistent, and transparent execution of the fellowship program.
- To facilitate a structured learning environment with defined goals and assessments.
- To maintain high standards of surgical training and academic output in India.

3. Eligibility Criteria

- MCh/DNB (Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery) or an equivalent degree recognized by the Medical Council of India.
- Full membership of IACTS.
- Valid medical registration certificate.

PROCESS

1. Application Process

- Applicants must ensure IACTS full membership status before applying.
- Review available fellowship categories and mentor/institution options listed on the IACTS website.
- **Fixed time of annual/ biannual intake of fellows: To be advertised on website and other forums through the secretary of IACTS**
- Complete the online/physical application form including CV, certificates, and mentor preference.
- Pay the prescribed application fee for application if any
- Await confirmation and acceptance letter from the IACTS Fellowship Committee.

2. Fellowship Structure

- The fellowship duration is typically 1–2 years depending on the subspecialty. Each fellow will undergo:
 - Surgical skill development under a designated mentor
 - Participation in academic meetings, journal clubs, and audits.
 - Participation in the IACTS database
 - Logbook maintenance of all surgical cases assisted/performed.
 - Regular evaluations and feedback by the mentor and institutional committee.
- **Exit examination shall be conducted and certificates awarded for successful candidates in the subsequent IACTSCON**

3. Certification and Exit Criteria

Upon successful completion of the fellowship, including clinical, academic, and ethical standards, the fellow will be eligible for the IACTS Fellowship Certificate. A structured oral/written assessment may be conducted before certification.

2 Publications in IJTCVS desirable

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Fellows : Comply with training schedules, ethical guidelines, maintain logbooks, and attend academic sessions.

Mentors : Provide hands-on training, periodic feedback, and ensure competency assessment.

Host Institutions : Provide infrastructure, case exposure, academic opportunities, and maintain program integrity.

- **Minimum numbers of the particular subspecialty will be 250 cases per annum except aortic fellowship where it will be 50 per annum.**
- Mentors' credentials to be assessed the IACTS fellowship committee before the fellowship is advertised
- IACTS Fellowship Committee: Oversee program quality, address grievances, and conduct periodic evaluations.

5. Code of Conduct

All fellows must adhere to professional conduct, maintain patient confidentiality, show respect to team members, and avoid any activity that compromises patient safety or institutional protocols. Breach of conduct may lead to termination. The fellows shall be guided by the service rules of the respective institutions.

6. Grievance Redressal

Fellows can report grievances to the IACTS Fellowship Committee / Executive committee in writing. A resolution will be sought in consultation with the mentor and host institution within a stipulated timeframe.

7. Review and Updates

This SOP is subject to periodic review by the IACTS Executive Committee.

OUTCOME

- On successful completion, candidates will be awarded a certificate during the Annual Conference of IACTS.
- The purpose of these fellowships is to provide opportunities to young surgeons to hone their skills in a particular subspecialty of cardiothoracic surgery in a systematic supervised responsible manner.
- At the end of successful completion (after fulfilling above mentioned criteria), the candidate should have got significant theoretical/ clinical and hands-on experience in addition to understanding the whole planning process of a complex endeavour.
- He / she should be able to perform atleast low complexity cases of the respected sub specialties independently with results comparable to accepted bench marks.
- The mentor institution benefits by involving itself in a structured pedagogy, IACTS database involvement and scientific publications.

