

Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital & Institute Fellowship Programme

Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital & Institute was established by philanthropist Sri A Sankar Rao, in 1997. Over a period hospital services grew in scope and reach towards Education & Research, with recognition for Fellowships in sub-specialties of Ophthalmology. Over 200 Fellows have by now benefited from the program ever since the inception of the 1st Anterior Segment Fellowship in 2010.

Overview of Fellowship Programs

Each Clinical Specialty Fellowship program benefits from a high volume of OPD and surgical exposure potential, experienced faculty with expertise in training & mentorship. The fellowship program emphasizes education through hands-on experience in a systematic manner.

The fellows are trained in designated specialties, to develop skills in clinical assessment and judgement, so as to deliver excellent patient care services. They are supervised and guided until they are capable of independently treating patients with confidence, and are trained in proper evaluation of patients by relevant history taking complete examination and diagnosis.



Figure 1 Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital Main Building in Visakhapatnam

The Fellows are to participate in departmental projects of research and participate in seminars, conference projects, thesis and publications.

In addition to the main Clinical Specialty program aimed at achieving Overall Holistic Skill development, the Clinical Research Specialty stream is formulated, for selected candidates, for being able to reach an expert-level skill set for a niche area within the specialty.

We use cutting-edge collaborative tools and Microsoft 365 Teams ecosystem to optimize the learning experience with respect to quality and time management.

List of Current Fellowship Positions for year 2023 :

Specialty	Tenure	Clinical Fellowship	Clinical Research Fellowship	Mode of selection
Anterior Segment	24 Months	2	1	Test + interview
Cornea	24 Months	2	1	Test + interview
Glaucoma	24 Months	2	1	Test + interview
Orbit-Oculoplasty	24 Months	1	1	Test + interview
Pediatric Oph & Strabismus	24 Months	1	1	Test + interview
Retina – Surgical	24 Months	2	1	Test + interview

Educational Opportunities:

We aim to train Fellows to NIH Proficiency Level 4 (Advanced, Applied Theory) and beyond (Expert Level), for the main/critical procedures of each subspecialty, & introducing the range of procedures in a comprehensive and systematic manner.

Educational activities include didactic lectures, seminars and case presentations in subjects ranging across the specialty of focus and Research Methodology. Fellows could spend 1-4 days per week in the operating room, depending on the stage of the fellowship.

The needs for improvements are assessed in structured reviews and based on the Feedback and evaluation process in the program, customized improvements are introduced.

There are ample opportunities for training other candidates and developing training resource materials giving opportunities for the development of leadership & mentorship capacity along with vastly improved skills.

Research Opportunities:

Clinical Research Specialty Fellowship programs, in each specialty, aims at developing Focused Expertise within the specialization area with selected niche area of need and interest for the specialty, aiming to reach towards excellence in the focused area.

Fellows are guided through steps for (a) Performance of literature review, (b) Designing evidence-based research projects, (c) Writing research protocols and grant applications, (d) submission of research projects to an IRB, (e) recruitment of patients for research studies conduct of ocular testing on research patients, (f) performance of medical chart reviews for retrospective studies, (g) entering and analyzing study data with biostatisticians, (h) writing and submission of manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals, (i) submission and presentation of research results at national / international meetings, & (j) participation in ongoing research team meetings.

The schedules of Clinical Research Specialty Fellowships are tailored to enable proportionately more time being devoted to Specialty surgeries and Research related requirements.



Figure 2 Indicative graphic for differentiation of the Clinical Fellowship into Clinical Research Fellowship

Anterior Segment

Lead Faculty:

Prof Dr P Krishna Prasad, MS

Overview of Facilities:

Experienced faculty with expertise in training & mentorship.

Facilities for good care of patients in OPD and wards (200 beds). Well-equipped Surgical Operation theatres with side observer scopes, video display & video recording and editing for training and skill enhancement. Well-equipped wet lab for training in initial stages and for new procedures.

Clinical & Surgical Exposure & Responsibilities:

Fellows rotate through specialties of General Ophthalmology, Cornea, Glaucoma. Clinical activities include attending to OPDs surgicals, Outreach with exposure to wide range of settings and cases.

SICS & Phaco-emulsification including complex situations for cataract surgeries in presence of experts to give good confidence to surgeons and good quality surgical output as monitored in feedbacks and audits.

Exposure to basic procedures from Cornea and Glaucoma specialties, including exposure to refractive surgeries.

Cornea

Lead Faculty:

Dr Nasrin, DNB, FICO

Overview of Facilities:

Experienced faculty with good skills and interest in training & mentorship.

Anterior Segment OCT, Specular Microscopy, Sirius Corneal Topography, UVX for C3R.

Clinical & Surgical Exposure & Responsibilities:

Good exposure to Keratoconus Clinic, Dry Eye Clinic, Refractive Surgeries, Corneal Ulcers, Ocular Surface reconstruction, Keratoplasties (TKP, PKP, DALK, DSAEK, PDEK). Opportunities for training so as to develop mentorship capacity and improved skills. In addition, the skill set of Cataract surgeries, including SICS and Phaco-emulsification.

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Opportunities for training the junior fellows and DNB residents so as to develop mentorship capacity and improved skills.

Glaucoma

Lead Faculty:

Dr T Raveendra, MS., FIAS, FAICO (Glaucoma)

Overview of Facilities:

Experienced faculty with good skills and interest in training & mentorship. Specialty focused equipment includes Gonioscopes, Goldman Applanation Tonometers,

Visual Fields Analyzers, Fundus Photography, Optical Coherent Tomography, Pachymetry, Good Slit Lamps and Clinical Photography equipment, Pachymetry, Ultrasound Biomicroscope, Icare Tonometer, Surgical Gonioscopes.

Clinical & Surgical Exposure & Responsibilities:

Good exposure to trabeculectomies, adjunctive procedures, Aqueous suture implants (AADI and AGV) & MIGS procedures.

In addition, the skill set of Cataract surgeries, including SICS and Phaco-emulsification are also included as an important part.

Opportunities for training the junior fellows and DNB residents so as to develop mentorship capacity and improved skills.

Orbit-Oculoplasty

Lead Faculty:

Dr NJ Sirisha, Fellow in Orbit- Oculoplasty, HV Desai Institute of Ophthalmology, Pune

Overview of Facilities:

High volume of OPD and surgical exposure potential. Experienced faculty with good skills and interest in training & mentorship.

Clinical & Surgical Exposure & Responsibilities:

Diagnosis and management of Lid and orbital eye disease comprehensively, including: (a) Lid Infections, entropion, ectropion, coloboma lids etc. (b) Diagnosis and management of Lacrimal system diseases like Acute and Chronic dacryocystitis, Lacrimal gland tumours etc. (c) Diagnoses and management of Thyroid ophthalmopathy. (d) Diagnosis and management of Orbital space occupying lesions. (e) Diagnosis and management of Lid and Orbital Injuries including canalicular tears.

In addition, the skill set of Cataract surgeries, including SICS and Phaco-emulsification, including exposure to Refractive Surgeries, are an important part.

Opportunities for training the junior fellows and DNB residents so as to develop mentorship capacity and improved skills.

Pediatric Ophthalmology

Lead Faculty:

Dr T Suparna, FIPOS (Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai)

Overview of Facilities:

High volume of OPD and surgical exposure potential. Experienced faculty with good skills and interest in training & mentorship.

Clinical & Surgical Exposure & Responsibilities:

(a) Diagnose and manage different refractive errors in infants, pre-school and school-going children; (b) Asthenopia symptoms, Allergic disorders, infections and other treatable problems in children; (c) management of amblyopia; (d) management of squint both conservatively and surgically; (e) Cataract and the special IOL power calculation related issues; (f) management of neurological problems.

In addition, the skill set of Cataract surgeries, including SICS and Phaco-emulsification, including exposure to Refractive Surgeries, are an important part.

Opportunities for training the junior fellows and DNB residents so as to develop mentorship capacity and improved skills.

Retina

Lead Faculty:

Dr T Krishna, FIVRS

Overview of Facilities:

Experienced faculty with good skills and interest in training & mentorship. Equipment available includes: OCT (Topcon Triton Swept Source), FFA, Zeiss Clarus 700 Widefield fundus camera, Alcon Constellation Vitrectomy machine, Zeiss Argon (green) Laser, Iridex Diode Laser, B-Scan and equipment.

Clinical & Surgical Exposure & Responsibilities:

The fellows are trained in OPD procedures like 90 Diopter Lens, indirect Ophthalmoscopic examinations to diagnose various retinal conditions, B Scan and OCT interpretation, Lasers like PRP, Focal, Grid and Barrage laser. They are given a good exposure of Fundus FFA in diagnosis and management of diabetic retinopathy CSR vascular occlusions and other procedures.

The fellows will assist and perform various retinal surgeries like Pars Plana Vitrectomy, RD surgeries, IOL Drops, Nucleus Drops, IOFB removals, Core Vitrectomy Macula hole, epiretinal membrane etc. They will be trained in intravitreal injections like Avastin, Lucentis antibiotics and other, under experienced VR surgeons, including all types of VR surgeries.
