



Position Statement on Non-ASTS Fellows in “Parallel Tracks”

at ASTS Accredited Fellowship Training Programs

Approved by the ASTS Council - May 2009

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As the leading Society advancing surgical care in transplantation, the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) is committed to defining and promoting training and the career-long education of transplant surgeons. One of the primary avenues by which ASTS defines and promotes training is through its accreditation of abdominal surgical fellowship training programs. ASTS accreditation provides validation that a training program meets high standards and is a seal of approval formally recognized by UNOS/OPTN and others. ASTS accredited training programs serve as the primary pathway for transplant surgeon designation and associated privileges.

The objective of a Transplant Surgery Fellowship Training Program is to develop proficiency in the surgical and medical management of patients with end-stage organ diseases amenable to transplantation. In order to receive ASTS accreditation a program must demonstrate the ability to provide sufficient clinical experience within an educational setting that will result in well trained fellows to work in the United States and abroad. ASTS accredited programs are further defined by the organ accreditation and number of fellows the program can train. This is determined by a comprehensive review by the fellowship training committee and final approval is granted by the ASTS Council.

It is important that ASTS fellows have access to the full resources of the program. The training of additional non-ASTS fellows in parallel tracks dilutes the fellowship experience and should not occur at ASTS accredited programs. Fellows in transplant surgery complete at least two years of post residency training in ASTS approved training programs. Each program is accredited for a specific number of fellows. No fellowship positions other than these specific approved positions are recognized by the ASTS.

The ASTS is committed to training the next generation of surgeons to practice in the United States, Canada, and the rest of the world. The society firmly believes the training in an ASTS accredited fellowship training position is the standard required to practice transplant surgery.