Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellowship Requirements

Objective:

The objective of an Abdominal 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. This objective should be achieved through a 24-month structured supplemental program for the study and treatment of these diseases in an accredited and properly supervised transplant surgery fellowship. Candidates for training in an Accredited Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellowship Training Program must have satisfactorily completed a residency which satisfies the educational requirements for certification by the American Board of Surgery, American Board of Urology, American Osteopathic Board Certification, or foreign equivalency. Individual training programs may also have additional requirements.

There are several requirements for fellowship training which include the following:

- The program must provide adequate volumes of various transplant procedures and have a formal structure of didactic and clinical training in place.
- The fellow must demonstrate proficiency by participating in the Principal Role in an adequate number of operative transplants for each organ in order to receive a certificate of completion of a fellowship in a particular organ system.
- Fellows will be eligible to train in the Basic Training Categories (BTF) and Specialized Training Categories (STF) category in which they match into and the program is accredited to train in. Upon successful completion, Program Directors will notify the ASTS which organ track(s) the fellow is competent in.
- The length of the fellowship period should be no less than 24-months.
- Fellows should be aware of the Managed Time Policy.
- Fellows should apply for a complimentary ASTS Trainee membership BEFORE entering the fellowship training program. Fellows apply for online at www.ASTS.org. The application must be completed and include your CV and letter of support from the Program Director. Applications should be submitted at least 3 months prior to the fellows start date.
- Programs must notify the ASTS National Office of their incoming fellows. Name, degree, organ training slot, email address and start date must all be submitted to ASTS prior to fellowship start date.
- Programs must submit surgical milestone assessments of fellows at 6-month intervals after start of training. Fellows are required to send their surgical logs to their program director for the milestone assessment.
- Fellows must submit a request for their certificate of completion by filling out the Fellowship Completion Form. ASTS does not automatically process certificates.

Individual Fellow Requirements:

- Fellows must maintain a surgical log in the Academic Universe. This surgical log should be updated in a timely fashion and must be approved by the Fellowship Training Program Director bi-annually during the milestone assessment.
The fellow must demonstrate proficiency by participating in the Principal Role in an adequate number of operative transplants for each organ in order to receive a certificate of completion of a fellowship in a particular organ system. The Program Director will notify the ASTS which organ track(s) the fellow is competent in.

"Principal Role" does not suggest that an Attending Surgeon was not present during the procedure. The Fellow can act in the Principal Role when working together with a Staff Surgeon. "Principal Role" does require that the Fellow was present for the vast majority of the procedure. Only one Fellow can be considered to have played the principal role for any one procedure.

Fellows are required to meet the following volumes over the course of their 24-month fellowship in order to receive a certificate of completion in the organ systems they matched into and the program is accredited to train in.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Transplant Volume (ALL fellows)</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Multi-Organ Procurements (ALL fellows)</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kidney</strong></td>
<td>40</td>
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<td><strong>Living Donor Nephrectomies</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liver</strong></td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pancreas</strong></td>
<td>10 transplants in the principal role</td>
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<td>10 back table preparations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10 pancreas procurements</td>
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<tr>
<td>*<strong>Intestine</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>*<strong>Hepatobiliary</strong></td>
<td>Minimum 35 HB Cases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum of 15 Hemihepatectomies in Principal Role</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum of 15 Biliary procedures in Principal Role</td>
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<tr>
<td>*<strong>Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary</strong></td>
<td>Minimum 50 HPB Cases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum of 15 Hemihepatectomies in Principal Role</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum of 15 Biliary procedures in Principal Role</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum of 15 Non-transplant major pancreatic procedures in Principal Role</td>
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Fellows can perform a minimum of 12 living donor nephrectomies in the principal or participant role.

*Fellows must have successfully completed a fellowship in liver transplantation in order to be eligible for intestinal, hepatobiliary, or hepatopancreatobiliary certificate of completion.

**Online Curriculum:**

All fellows will be required to complete ALL curriculum modules in each unit in the National Transplant Curriculum (outlined below) in order to receive a certificate of completion. Module completion will include the following:

- Viewing the slide show presentation
- Reviewing the references
- Completing the Self-Assessment Questions
- Providing general and specific curriculum feedback at the completion of each presentation
Knowledge Assessment: Pathway to Certificate of Completion

Fellows in Accredited Training Programs are required to take the annual Knowledge Assessment during their first and second year of fellowship training. In order to receive the certificate of completion from the Transplant Accreditation & Certification Council (TACC), fellows must complete all of the requirements outlined above as well as achieve satisfactory performance on the Knowledge Assessment.

The Knowledge Assessment will be offered in April of each year for first- and second-year fellows. Fellows must have an average score of >50% correct when the scores from their first- and second-year assessments are combined. The assessment will be administered using a secure online exam platform and will be proctored by the fellows’ Fellowship Training Program Director. Individual scores as well as category breakdown performance will be sent to the fellows and their Fellowship Training Program director after the assessment.

The assessment will consist of 120 questions which fellows will have 2.6 hours to complete (1.3 minutes per question). The assessment will cover the following categories from the National Transplant Curriculum.

- Economics and Ethics
- Hepatobiliary/Hepatopancreatic
- Intestinal Transplantation
- Kidney Transplantation
- Liver Transplantation
- Medical Complications
- Multi-Organ Transplant
- Organ Procurement
- Pancreas Transplantation
- Immunobiology and Pharmacology

Note, fellows who complete an accredited fellowship training program and begin an additional fellowship are required to complete the Knowledge Assessment requirements during their second fellowship.
Remediation:

It is expected that there is improvement in fellows scores on the Knowledge Assessment from the first to the second-year assessment. For fellows that achieve a high score on their first attempt, the expectation is that they maintain that standard on their second-year assessment. All exams will be adjusted for difficulty and will be assessed for question quality.

Should a fellow not score an average of >50% correct when the scores of their first- and second-year assessments are combined, the following options will be available. Remediation must be completed within 60 days of their released exam scores.

Remediation 1: Repeat the same exam within 60 days of the first exam. Fellow will be provided category breakdown to review prior to the exam.

Remediation 2: If a fellow fails a repeat exam, a focused and incremental self-knowledge assessment will be administered based on areas of weakness.

Certificate of Completion:

Fellows are eligible to receive a certificate of completion when they successfully complete a twenty-four month Accredited Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellowship AND fulfill requirements for organ systems in which their fellowship program is accredited to train. This includes organ systems for which the program is accredited in at the start of the fellow’s training AND organ systems for which the program receives accreditation within the first twelve months of the fellow’s training.

For example, if a fellow started training in August 2017 and the program became accredited in Pancreas transplant in July 2018, the fellow would be eligible to receive a certificate of completion in pancreas transplant if he or she meets requirements.

It is the responsibility of an individual training program to inform the fellow about specific program accreditation status at the start of fellowship training and when changes to the program accreditation status occur that affect the certificate eligibility of the fellow.

Fellows are responsible for submitting a certificate of completion request when they complete their fellowship training program. This online submission must include the following attachments:

1. Certificate of Completion Program Director Approval Form
2. Surgical Log Entries Report
3. Surgical Log Summary Report
4. National Transplant Curriculum Certificate

Note, attachments 2-4 must be downloaded from the fellow's Academic Universe account. It is recommended you keep a copy of your surgical log reports for your records. Certificate requests are reviewed on a monthly basis and you should allow 6-8 weeks for processing. The materials must be submitted through the online form. Emailed submissions will not be accepted.