



RENAL TRANSPLANT SURGERY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Surgery Transplant Service at King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre (KFSH&RC) was initiated in 1983 and established as a Section in 1993. It is one of the most active and successful in the Middle East, performing approximately 150 kidney transplants each year and maintaining survival rates comparable to the best institutions in the world. The section is the foremost transplant centre for pediatric renal transplantation in Saudi Arabia. The first pancreas transplant program in the Middle East was initiated by the section in 2004.

The renal transplant section also handles complex vascular access problems referred from throughout the Kingdom. On average, 200-250 access procedures are performed each year. The section also supports the active peritoneal dialysis program in placement of Tenckhoff catheter. Approximately 50 catheter placements are done each year.

As a fellow in Transplant Surgery, in-depth clinical experience in the techniques of kidney and pancreas transplantation, vascular access, immunosuppression and management of post-transplant complications will be obtained. The fellow will also be exposed to procedures for organ procurement and clinical approach to organ preservation.

The fellow will be involved in all stages of transplant patient care from the time the patient is placed on organ waiting list, through the peri-operative period and during the years of follow-up care. The fellow will also be involved in the work-up of living-related donors.

In addition to the clinical program, the Section of Transplant Surgery provides excellent venue for clinical and basic science research. The section has an extensive database of all transplant patients updated quarterly and access to excellent animal facility and immunology laboratory.

Fellows will participate in daily teaching rounds, weekly journal club as well as a number of educational conferences and collaborative practice meetings. The fellow will also supervise the rotation of residents from General Surgery. The Section of Transplant Surgery offers two-year fellowship.

II. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

As the transplant program is rapidly developing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the country will need more transplant surgeons in near future. Our aim of transplant fellowship program is to have highly qualified and skilled transplant surgeons. In the future, we may extend our training program services to the physicians of the region.

III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The objective of the renal transplant surgery fellowship training program is to develop proficiency in the surgical and medical management of patients with end-stage renal disease amenable to transplantation. This will be achieved through a structured supplemental program for the study and treatment of the diseases in an appropriately supervised curriculum.

IV. PREREQUISITES

The applicant must have successfully completed training in an accredited general surgical/urology/vascular surgery residency training program with progressive responsibility. Board certification by the Saudi Board or an equivalent certification is mandatory.

V. DURATION OF FELLOWSHIP

The fellowship program is for two years.

Fellowship Rotations

- 18 months
Section of Kidney Transplant Surgery
Department of Surgery
- 6 weeks
Section of Immunology and Tissue Typing
Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
- 3 months
Elective Urology or Vascular according to initial training
- 6 weeks
Section of Nephrology
Department of Medicine

VI. NUMBER OF FELLOWSHIP POSITIONS

One fellow will be accepted each year but a maximum of two fellows may work at any one time in the Transplant Surgery Section at KFSH&RC.

VII. QUALIFICATIONS OF PROGRAM STAFF

Members of the consultant staff should be certified by the American Board of Transplant Surgery or its equivalent, and possess at least seven years of qualified clinical experience. All members should have demonstrated skill in medical research as evidenced by publications in peer-reviewed journals and have training in medical teaching. One of the consultants will be appointed program director.

VIII. STRUCTURE OF TRAINING PROGRAM

KFSH&RC has established a transplant unit to which all transplant cases are admitted. This unit is under the direction of a qualified transplant surgeon or transplant physician with continuous responsibility for teaching, quality of patient care and research. Although care of the transplant patient is centralized to the unit, adequate training in allied disciplines such as Nephrology, Immunology, Radiology, Infectious Disease, Cardiology, Pulmonology, Gastroenterology, and Endocrinology will be provided either through formal rotation or by regular collaborative practice sessions.

IX. PROGRAM CONTENT

A. Facilities

KFSH&RC is a tertiary care referral facility with 725 beds. The Transplant Surgery Section has established a dedicated transplant unit with ten beds. Besides, the section has access to outpatient clinic, operating room, outpatient surgery facilities and research laboratory. The Transplant Surgery Section collaborates with the relevant surgical and medical specialties within KFSH&RC.

The section has an extensive database of all patients transplanted at KFSH&RC with quarterly updates. The health sciences library of KFSH&RC is available to the hospital staff for information appropriate to both patient care and research.

B. Scope of Training

- Immunogenetics, histocompatibility and crossmatching
- Immunobiology of allograft rejection
- Selection and preparation of the recipient
- Selection and operative approaches for cadaveric and living donors
- Surgical principles of the operation
- Surgical complications
- Immunosuppressive drugs: pharmacology
- Immunosuppressive drugs: molecular and cellular mechanisms of action
- Established immunosuppressive drugs: clinical and toxic effects

- Immunosuppressive drugs: new strategies
- Rejection and other renal complications
- Recurrent primary disease and de novo nephritis
- Infections
- Cardiovascular disease and its causes
- Malignancy
- Gastrointestinal, pancreatic and hepatobiliary complications
- Skin complications
- Musculoskeletal, ocular and hematological complications
- Gynecologic and obstetric considerations
- Psychiatric considerations
- Current results and prospects arising from computerization

C. Surgical Content and Duration of Training

The activity of the training program will be sufficient to ensure adequate exposure to surgical procedures as applied to transplantation. Each transplant fellow will perform at least 30 kidney transplants over the course of their fellowship. In addition a fellow will perform at least 15 multiorgan procurement procedures annually. During the 24 months of fellowship at this institution, at least 18 months will be spent in clinical training and the remaining period in the laboratory or in rotations through allied disciplines.

D. Clinical Material

It is essential for the fellow to learn the management of end-stage organ disease and the specific indication and contraindication for organ transplantation. It is also important for the fellow to gain understanding of the function of the histocompatibility laboratory with respect to cross-matching techniques, PRA testing and tissue typing. Efforts will be made for formal rotation through the histocompatibility laboratory.

X. EVALUATION AND PROMOTION

The fellow's level of competence and performance will be evaluated at a frequency determined by the Postgraduate Education Committee and in the manner detailed in the Policy for Fellowship Training Program. A self-assessment examination covering the different topics in the subspecialty will be given at the end of the first and second years of fellowship training.

A fellow's advancement from year to year is contingent upon professional performance and personal growth. The criteria for promotion are based on written and oral exam and evaluation of the transplant team.

XI. LEAVES

Fellows are allowed one month vacation yearly plus two weeks of Eid Holidays and one week of professional leave to a major conference.

XII. COMPLETION

A certificate of fellowship training at KFSH&RC will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of the requirements of the program.

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**RENAL TRANSPLANT SURGERY
FELLOWSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM**

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