

# AHNS TransOral Robotic Surgery (TORS) Training Curriculum for Fellows

## Goal

The mission of the American Head and Neck Society (AHNS) is to advance the education, research and quality of care for the head and neck oncology patient. The AHNS is committed to developing tomorrow's leaders in head and neck oncology. Currently with limited formal training opportunities for fellows in advanced technologies, including robotic surgery, the AHNS is committed to partnering with industry to provide future head and neck surgeons a pathway for advanced training in surgery, including transoral robotic surgery (TORS). As such, the AHNS has joined with industry to offer AHNS fellows a formal advanced training opportunity in TORS.

## Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the AHNS TORS Training Curriculum for Fellows, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Fellow in an AHNS Advanced Training Council (ATC) accredited program
- Letter of commitment/agreement from AHNS Fellowship Program Director

## Learning Objectives

1. To understand the fundamentals of surgical anatomy, patient selection, preoperative planning and exposure for transoral robotic surgery (TORS).
2. To be familiar with the set-up and basic operation of current FDA-approved devices for TORS.
3. To understand peri-operative management strategies, potential complications and the application of adjuvant therapies after TORS.

## Curriculum Overview

The AHNS TORS Curriculum for Fellows is designed to offer a continuum of learning. AHNS faculty will be responsible for all content and instruction.

The components of the AHNS TORS Curriculum for Fellows as recommended from prior consensus guidelines<sup>1</sup> are as follows:

### Preclinical Training

- Online Training
  - AHNS approved surgical videos and industry-specific content as available
- Inanimate Dry Lab
  - In-person overview of the system(s) conducted at the hospital by clinical sales representative (CSR)
- Didactic Training
  - Offered at least annually by AHNS faculty on a first-come basis as capacity allows
- Hands-on Animate or Cadaver Training
  - Offered at least annually by AHNS faculty on a first-come basis as capacity allows

- Additional industry-specific training specifics and requirements are detailed in the APPENDICES

### Clinical Training

- Case Observations
- Case Set-up
  - Patient Positioning
  - Surgical Site Exposure
  - Robotic Equipment Positioning
  - Instrument Docking
- Assistant Surgeon (Goal  $\geq 10$ )
  - Instrument Manipulation
  - Retraction
  - Smoke and Blood Evacuation
  - Placement of Surgical Clips
  - Emergency Management
- Primary Surgeon (Goal  $\geq 10$ )

### Post-Training Mentorship

#### **Certificate of Completion**

Participants who complete the AHNS TORS Curriculum will be eligible to receive a certificate of completion. All participants will be expected to maintain a TORS case log during fellowship through T-Res. However, only participants able to document a minimum of 10 TORS procedures completed as assistant and 10 TORS procedures completed as surgeon will be eligible for the certificate. TORS procedures de-identified of all Protected Health Information (PHI) will be uploaded into a web-based database maintained by the AHNS.

Participants who complete the certificate requirements will be matched with an AHNS TORS faculty mentor. Certificates will be awarded at the annual AHNS meeting.

#### **Application Process**

Applications will be accepted on a first-come basis. Didactic Training must be completed prior to Hands-on Training. In addition to the online application, candidates will be required to upload the following materials:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Letter of support from AHNS Fellowship Program Director

#### **References**

1. Gross ND, Holsinger FC, Magnusson JS *et al.* Robotics in Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery: Recommendations for Training and Credentialing. *Head Neck* 2016