

Fellowship Fast Facts

Scope of Fellowship:

The fellowship program is designed to train academic head and neck surgeons with a specialty in microvascular reconstructive surgery and advanced endocrine surgery. It is a one year program with a goal of establishing a foundation, complete with clinical, educational, and clinical research skills that will serve each candidate well in their career. One of the key elements is to foster a mindset of creativity so that each graduate will use this set of skills to be able to think about ways to utilize them in order to solve existing challenges and in so doing help to advance the field of head and neck oncologic and reconstructive surgery in years to come.

Historical:

1. The fellowship started in 1991 at Mount Sinai Medical Center.
2. The fellowship was accredited by the AHNS Advanced Training Counsel in 2010.
3. Twenty-nine fellows have graduated from the program – of which 20 are practicing in the USA and eight are practicing abroad in four countries and one US Territory (Canada (4), New Zealand, Australia, Israel and Guam).
4. Four of the 29 graduates are Chairmen at academic medical centers. Of the remaining 25 graduates, eleven are working in academic medical centers and thirteen are working in a clinical setting. Currently eight former fellows are running their own fellowship program.
5. The nine most recent graduates of the fellowship are practicing in the following locations:
 - a. Fred Baik, MD – Stanford University School of Medicine – Academic Institution
 - b. Ansley Roche MD – Hofstra-Northwell School of Medicine – Academic Institution
 - c. Sami Moubayed, MD – Universite de Montreal – Academic Institution
 - d. Ilya Likhterov, MD – Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Beth Israel (NYC) – Academic Institution
 - e. Jerry Castro, MD – Guam – Private Practice
 - f. Saral Mehra, MD – Yale School of Medicine – Academic Institution
 - g. Sumeet Anand, MD – Toronto, Canada – Private Practice
 - h. Jose Zevalos, MD – University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Medicine – Academic Institution
 - i. Eran Alon, MD – Chaim Sheba Medical Center – Tel Hashomer, Israel – Academic Institution

Clinical Education/Training:

6. The main objective of the fellowship is to provide advanced clinical training in head and neck oncologic and microvascular reconstructive surgery as well as thyroid and parathyroid surgery, salivary gland surgery and an exposure to robotic surgery.
7. A multidisciplinary team environment is an essential element of the fellowship program, both with respect to the overall management of head and neck cancer, but also with respect to the restorative and rehabilitative components of patient care. Extensive interaction and exchange of ideas in a weekly clinical setting with Dr Buchbinder (oral and maxillofacial surgery) and Dr Okay (oral and maxillofacial prosthodontics) helps the fellow to gain important perspectives on the value and the dynamics of that unique multidisciplinary collaboration.
8. The fellow is directly involved in the perioperative management of all patients and has an opportunity to evaluate them in the outpatient setting on a weekly basis. Through involvement in the preoperative

discussions, and decision making (including radiologic and pathologic review), as well as the postoperative period of recovery, the fellow is able to understand the essential elements of this continuum of patient care.

9. In addition to rounds with the attending surgeons, the fellow rounds daily with the clinical team of residents and physician assistants and performs informal didactic training of residents daily.
10. Fellows perform, on average, 80-100 microvascular free flaps per year.
11. The fellow does not staff any outpatient clinics or spend time outside of direct clinical and research activities.

Educational/Didactic Leadership Training:

12. The fellow presents all cases at a weekly multidisciplinary head and neck tumor board.
13. A medical library related to otolaryngology and head and neck surgery is available on site, and access to the cancer center's library is also available to the fellow.
14. The fellow attends a week-long course on microvascular surgery at Columbia University during the early phase of the fellowship year. In addition there are other courses and meetings that fellows are encouraged to attend throughout the year including the American Head and Neck Society, COSM, and other meetings where they may present research performed during their fellowship.
15. The fellow interacts on a regular basis with attendings in the following related specialties: Radiation Oncology, Medical Oncology, Head and Neck Radiology, Pathology, Cytopathology, Oral Surgery, Prosthodontics, Speech and Swallowing Therapy, Oculoplastic surgery.
16. Time and resources are provided for the fellow to attend extramural courses based on their particular subspecialty areas of interest.

Research

17. The fellow is encouraged to take part in clinical research studies during their fellowship year. During most weeks, the fellow has a protected day for research and manuscript preparation. There are unique opportunities to optimize this aspect of the training program by taking a leadership role on the team of research associates who spend one to two gap years in the outcomes research center prior to going to medical school. The fellow works directly with the research associates who spend time in the operating room throughout the week and assist in collecting relevant data for the ongoing studies. The fellow is also able to participate in the international network of head and neck outcomes research centers (HNRN).
18. Over the past 8 years, fellows have been listed as investigator on many IRB approved research studies, co-authored over 100 peer reviewed articles, and contributed multiple book chapters during or shortly after their fellowship year.
19. Time, resources and travel funding are provided for the fellow to travel and present at local and national meetings