Open Call for
Fistula Surgery Fellowship Applications
2014 - 2015

The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO – www.figo.org ) is pleased to announce an open call for fellowship applications for fistula surgery training. This is an opportunity for dedicated physicians to acquire the knowledge, skills and professionalism needed to prevent obstetric fistula and provide proper surgical, medical and psychosocial care to women who have incurred fistula, whether during childbirth or because of inflicted trauma.

Through this open call for fellows, FIGO is seeking to increase the number of fistula surgeons providing treatment for women living with obstetric fistula in countries where this condition is prevalent.

Training and Facilitation
High quality clinical training will take place in hospital-based settings by expert trainers recognized by FIGO and its partners. The training approach is multidisciplinary and team based, with experienced fistula surgeons, nurses, physiotherapists and other specialized professionals all contributing to the training. The trainee will be expected to assist in his/her own training by using the recommended learning guides, and will be provided with on-going technical support following their training, including support visits to their health facility by trainers.

The trainee will follow a step-wise programme, progressing from theory to practice. The curriculum will be based around the Global Competency-Based Fistula Surgery Training Manual (2011), a standardized training manual developed by FIGO and partners which models itself on the principles of competency-based training and performance-based assessments.

Successful applicants will be trained within selected facilities in Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda.

Global Competency-Based Fistula Surgery Training Manual (2011)
Published in 2011, the Global Competency-Based Fistula Surgery Training Manual is aimed at healthcare providers from low- and middle-income countries and was produced with the collaboration of fistula surgeons and specialist health organizations from all over Africa, Asia, Europe and the USA. The manual is available online in English (original) and French (translation):


The training manual will be provided free of charge to the selected trainees and before commencing training they will be expected to be familiar with its subject matter.

Logistical Support
Successful applicants will receive support for travel (including economy return flights and visa) and accommodation, if required. Applicants should have a valid travel document in the event that the training takes place in a country other than their own. They will receive a daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the training.
Minimum Requirements
Applicants must
- have a minimum of three years’ surgical practice
- be available to undergo training for a minimum of 6-8 weeks in order to gain competency in the standard management of obstetric fistula
- originate from and work in a low-resource country where obstetric fistula is prevalent
- prove his/her ability to apply immediately and on a long-term basis the skills gained during the training upon returning to their health facility
- seek assurances from their Ministry of Health or other organization that they will be able to return to a health facility that makes provision for fistula treatment
- be committed to the care of women who have incurred obstetric fistula and feel confident in upholding women’s basic rights to privacy, dignity, safety and self-determination

Required Application Materials
1) A current detailed CV including most appropriate contact details
2) A personal statement not to exceed 500 words which
   a. confirms that the trainee meets the above mentioned requirements
   b. explains what practical actions the trainee will take to serve an increased number of patients
   c. indicates when he/she will be available to undertake 6-8 weeks’ training
3) A letter from the trainees’ employer
   a. releasing the trainee from his/her regular duties during the period of training
   b. confirming that the trainee has a minimum of three years’ surgical practice
4) A letter of assurance from the Ministry of Health or other organisation stating that the trainee will be able to return to a health facility that makes provision for fistula treatment
5) Two letters of reference (at least one from the current employer) to be sent directly from the referee to FIGO by email or post
   i. email to figo@figo.org, clearly indicating in the subject header of the message the name and surname of the applicant in support of which the reference is submitted
   ii. by post to FIGO, Suite 3, Waterloo Court, 10 Theed Street, London SE1 8ST, United Kingdom

Submission of Applications
Applications should be submitted in English or French to figo@figo.org by the 15th of September 2014 for placements between October 2014 and August 2015. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the selection procedure.