

## Head and Neck Oncology Surgery Fellowship at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital: A Major Forward Leap

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International clinical training fellowships and visiting scholarships widen and support the science and knowledge in the medical field by exposure to an uncommon diseases and unusual etiological factors [1]. Notably, the fellows acknowledged the maximum benefits of global training on their polite and enthusiastic manner with the upspring technical and clinical skills and especially on the melioration of and appreciated credence on different sorts of patient's examinations [2]. Consequently, demonstration of global medical training rules, accompanied with monitoring and selective criteria unique to each subspecialty will be highly recommended. For the participant this experience will shed more light in upswing of his clinical and research skills and create a good chances and foundations for a better healthy community, which really what the world need it these circumstances [1]. The head and neck cancers establish a crucial, challenging global community health solicitude. Worldwide, collectively these anatomically-approaching cancers are the sixth most common type of cancer [3]. Indeed, the management of head and neck cancers is multidisciplinary and has multimodality approaches which entails the oncology surgeons to have acquainting about the best convenient suitable indication for each modality [4]. Notably, there is a controversy in expectation of the real demand for expert and skillful surgeons in this field, it is obviously that the recent trends of the fellowships provide a magnificent exposure to head and neck surgeons to shed more light in this crucial sort of practice [4,5]. Currently, the new formatting and concept of the qualified surgical training has advocated enhancement of the clinical practice through encouragement of the post-specialty fellowship, with the plenary target of melioration of the clinical outcome and quality of life of cancer's patients [6].

### Scope of the Fellowship

Year after year CGMH has expanded into several branches, the vast majority of them in Taiwan with a fanciful capacity of the staff of medical personnel, intensive care units (ICU), modern equipment and beds. The hospital serviced as promised leaping foundation of medical practice and community health favor in Taiwan and near all around countries [5].

In this regards related to the extreme importance of this rampant sort of the malignant tumors, creation of chances of abroad training of the head and neck oncology surgery became a tremendous boon to the armamentarium of management for these anatomical specific sites.

The department of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery of Chang-Gung memorial hospital, Linkou branch is currently divided into five subspecialties including otology, rhinology, laryngology, head and neck surgery and pediatric otolaryngology. The skull base surgery, head-neck surgery, sleep medicine, endoscopic sinus surgery and cochlear implantation surgery contribute to Taiwan ENT medicine.

In fact of the matter, the clinical fellowship of head and neck oncology surgery at department of otolaryngology in Chang Gung Memorial Hospital (CGMH), Taiwan was established with a notion and concern to provide a training of professional close care for cancer's patients, create a stringent clinical and science research experience, emphasize the paramount of the familiarity with current trends in the oncology field and raise positively the basic and advanced surgical skills of the fellows. From commencement of this highly valuable fellowship until now, it becoming a trend-setting for many otolaryngology, plastic and reconstructive and oral and maxillofacial surgeons searching for non-ordinary building of their infrastructure training in the head and neck surgery.

### Fellowship Application Process

Matter of fact, this valuable substantial clinical fellowship in Taiwan are highly competitive in the extreme as annually approximately more than seventy standardized applications are reviewed thoroughly, and only three to four motivated candidates are selected based on completion of residency program, good academic performance, letters of recommendation. The applicant must have finished an accredited clinical residency in otolaryngology surgery, oral and maxillofacial surgery, or plastic surgery and definitely it is preferably to have the basic surgical skills in Head and Neck oncology. Chinese language is the mother tongue in Taiwan, but the English language is the formal language of the Fellowship and most of the medical personnel speak English language fluently and by it they will discuss, teach and deal with you.

### Training Model

The participant is committed for a full one year at CGMH, Linkou branch and is actively participate in all activities of head and neck Surgery's department. Each month the trainee follows the schedule of one out four highly expert and pioneer professors in head and neck surgical oncology. The fellow examine the patients thoroughly and even use the fiberscope routinely in the out-patient clinic and

discuss with his senior consultant and the residents the possible diagnosis, initial and advanced metastatic work-up and treatment map. The fellow usually encourages to positively engage in majority of the combined head and neck oncology surgeries. Postoperatively, the trainee follows and evaluates the patients in the ICU and the ward. Each early morning during five days of the week, he must joined and start his round with team in the ward and examine each case separately clinically and by checking the different radiological and biochemical investigations and discuss what should do for the next, step by step.

### Type of Surgeries

As a fellow you cannot even speculate the high volume of different surgeries starting from simple to advanced combined head and neck surgeries (more than 300 combined surgical operations per month) with the plastic, neuro and general surgeries. In general, the training is gradual and fellows are taken step by step building up their surgical skills.

Duties in the operation rooms, firstly the professors will evaluate the trainee's surgical skills and start with simple to complicated incisional and excisional biopsies under general anesthesia, then by days the fellow will be able to perform tracheostomies. As one of the professor said "neck dissection like a puzzle each time you will complete a part of it until you finish the view". From beginning of raising skin flaps of the neck, step by step until complete supra-omohyoid type until he performs radical and modified radical neck dissection. After advancement in the clinical practice, the fellow could perform parotidectomy and preserve the facial nerve with or without the nerve monitor, also tumor excision (maxillectomies, segmental and marginal mandibulectomies, glossectomies...). Moreover the trainee can join and enjoy actively the base of skull combined surgeries and the advanced robotic surgeries for base of the tongue and oro-hypo pharyngeal tumors.

### Academic and Non-Clinical Duties

The department has participated in the International literature with a lot of state of the art researches and publications and top edge techniques. Regardless, the vast majority of the surgeons and physicians are enthusing to nourish their prosperity in the science and advanced knowledge and technology by studying for high education level degrees, anticipating the ultimate quality of the ongoing research. Additionally a lot of valuable scientific articles annually are published in indispensable journals. Intriguingly, a group of an expertise senior professors and attending physicians of the department were invited for giving speech in international meetings and conferences in various highly qualified hospitals and universities around the world. The basic and advanced research is empowered and considered as an indispensable section of the training. The researches focusing in cancer biomarkers, assessment of the clinical outcomes, reporting different survival rates, evaluation patient's quality of life, selection of best treatment modality in ablative and reconstructive oncology surgeries and advanced upspring researches in same line with what the world need and seeking for up to date and even the future. The fellow must conduct with his professor who teach him the basic of research methodology in polite and requested manner at least two articles and submit them in a valuable peer reviewed journals and it is free to the trainee to choose who would like to perform with him in this part of the fellowship.

### Conferences and Presentations

Each fellow enthused and expected to present an article recently published during last three years in the field of the head and neck oncology surgery in the journal reading club at the meeting room each eight weeks. The fellow will choose three articles and with his professor will select the most interesting one then discuss together the cons and pros of the article. Additionally, it is free to the trainee to participate his experience and comment and discuss his arguments during other presentations of the residents in journal reading and the mortality and emergency meeting. A noteworthy, the fellow will attend and push politely and cordially to share his presentations at local and regional conferences and annual meetings in Taiwan.

### Experience of Tumor Board Conference

Weekly in each Tuesday, an expertise team with different specialties and subspecialties composed of head and neck oncology surgeons, radiologists, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, Pathologists, Nurses, Speech and Swallowing Therapists, etc. Meet at tumor board conference for discussing the challengeable difficult cases, those with rare unusual presentations and those presented with multiple recurrent episodes and the dilemma of the field of cancerization.

### Conclusion

Among vast majority of the countries around the world in the last decade, the clinical fellowship of head and neck oncology surgery became as the main destination in this field of practice as subspecialty, which often a paramount requisite in the career applications [6]. Besides, the clinical training of this sort of fellowship often progress the skills of the trainee to learn and spot the light on new non familiar surgical techniques, which raising the standards and refining the prosperity of their practice [7]. Additionally, training programs may extremely distinguish the participants from the general practitioners. A noteworthy, like this sub-specialization may afford a noticeable refinement in job descriptions or protection from medico-legal issues and measures [8]. A wide manifold nature and may be limited time and opportunities of training in otolaryngology field often constrict the clinical practice of a valuable specialty like various surgical procedures of head and neck oncology during residency. Consequently, surgeons could get experience from participation and independent performance of a maximum load of specialized surgical techniques in their interest through the clinical fellowship programs [7]. By the end we can said simply the clinical fellowship of head and neck oncology surgery at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital is flawless as with evidence of fellow motivation and inspiration can guarantee in the present time and future the real destination in advancement of the surgical skills and research in the field of head and neck oncology surgery.

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