

OTA International (IOTA) International Observership Program

Purpose of the Program

The goal of the program is to provide an opportunity for orthopaedic trauma fellows who reside outside North America to increase the depth and breadth of clinical exposure to complex trauma patients and Level I/II Trauma Centers through 1 - 3 month observership programs. All IOTA Observership hosts institutions will include participation of active OTA members. This program is limited to IOTA society members.

Process

IOTA society members will be responsible for the following:

- Creating and administering an application process for their society participation. This includes creating a specific application web page with details regarding offered resources and logistics of the trauma observership program and OTA host institutions (list of participating programs will be provided by the OTA).
- Promoting the program to their target candidate community.
- Collecting the following required information: Application, CV, etc.
- Coordination of candidate interviews for English proficiency (if applicable). The maximum number of participating fellows per society annually is 5.

Selected candidates will be invited to travel to the October OTA Annual Meeting to interview with their preferred host trauma centers (all travel and registration expenses will be the responsibility of the candidate (or alternatively a video interview may be scheduled). The purpose of the interview is to provide both the candidates and North American host program the opportunity to confirm the trauma program can offer the educational resources the candidate is seeking, and to confirm English proficiency requirements. Following the interviews, both the candidates and North American host institutions will rank order their preferred candidate/program. The rank lists will be submitted to the OTA, and the OTA will conduct a match. The candidate and program will be informed of approved matches shortly after the meeting.

Timeline

February	March – April	May - June	June – October	Mid-October	November - May
IOTA Societies confirm intent to participate. OTA sends IOTA Societies the list of participating N.A. host hospitals/trauma centers	IOTA Societies create and post an application for their members, and promote the program. Suggested Application Deadline: May 1	IOTA Society conducts applicant interviews (including English proficiency test if applicable) Maximum number of final candidates per society: TBD	Society confirms candidate selection. Candidates are invited to attend the October OTA Annual Meeting to interview with participating programs (or alternatively may schedule a video interview)	Candidates and Programs submit a rank list. Matched candidate/programs to be announced by end of October.	Observership scheduled (based on agreed scheduling timeline preference of the host institution and fellow).

Observership Duration and Schedule

The duration of the observership will be 1- 3 months (North American host institutions will indicate duration they can accommodate the fellow). Once matched, the fellow is responsible for contacting the institution to arrange all details and logistics (the OTA Business Office will be available to assist if needed). The start date will be determined by the North American host institution and the fellow.

Responsibility for Costs

Registration, airfare, food and housing costs are at the expense of the candidate fellow and/or IOTA Society. OTA and host institutions will not provide funding.

Basic Requirements

Trauma Fellow Requirements

1. Candidates will have completed an approved residency training program.
2. Candidates will have a demonstrated interest in orthopaedic trauma surgery.
3. Candidates will have the ability to speak English, with a working knowledge of medical English, confirmed, as required by the State Department, through either
 - a. A recognized English test (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS), or
 - b. A signed document or letter from an academic institution or English school attesting to language proficiency, or
 - c. A documented interview conducted either in-person, by videoconferencing or by telephone, if videoconferencing is not a viable option.
4. An interview at the OTA Annual Meeting, or a video interview, between the candidate and OTA/Observership institution is required.

Expectations of Participating Trauma Centers

North American host institutions will have a minimum of 20 cases per week and have weekly conferences that include preoperative planning and management of complications. (This should include indications, planning, perioperative management and post hospital discharge care).

The goal is to involve the fellows as much as possible. Most participation will be observational, as most institutions will not allow the fellows to scrub, though some may have a script observer policy. The fellows should be participating in all pre-op/post-op conferences.

Host institutions will also be requested to offer appropriate resources/personnel to assist Fellows in securing housing (to be paid for by the Fellow or Society), obtain necessary VISA/documentation, and other administrative assistance as needed.

Pilot Host Institutions

The OTA Office will survey the OTA membership to identify trauma centers interested in hosting fellows on an annual basis. The OTA will ensure each participating institution includes active OTA membership representation, and meets the expectations of participating trauma centers as noted above. In addition, the OTA will collect key program details which will be shared with participating IOTA Societies. The OTA International Committee will review and approve the host institutions.

Key Contacts

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact:

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