CALL FOR APPLICATION:
APSS GANGA HOSPITAL FELLOWSHIP 2026

Deadline for application: **30th April 2026**

TWO (2) fellowships will be awarded. Each fellow will spend 3 weeks at the Spine Surgery Unit of Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore, India which is headed by Professor S Rajasekaran. The fellowship must be completed **before 31st December 2026.**

This is a unique opportunity to interact with and learn from the spine team in the Orthopaedic Surgery Department of Ganga Hospital, which is the first centre in Asia that became a member of International Society of Orthopaedic Centre (ISOC).

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION

1. APSS member (previously known as "a member of Spine Section of the APOA"). Proof of payment for the APOA membership + Spine Section membership must be submitted when requested.
2. APSS member who has maintained an active, paid-up membership for at least 3 years▼.
3. Preference given to current APSS Life Members
4. Age 45 years or less.
5. Must communicate effectively in English and have a legal status to go abroad.
6. Have a university postgraduate level of degree or country equivalent.
7. Applicant when submitting this application MUST be at this point to be active in spine practice (at least 50% workload should be on spine surgery).
8. Not a previous recipient of the APSS Fellowship

▼**Notes:**

- *Example 1: Applicant A is a member of APSS with an annual subscription since 2022. He has paid his membership for 2022-2025. Therefore, he is eligible to apply for the programme*
- *Example 2: Applicant B is a new member of APSS who joined in June 2023. He has paid for an annual subscription for 2023-2026. Therefore, he is eligible to apply for the programme*
- *Example 3: Applicant C is a life member of APSS. Therefore, he is eligible to apply for the programme*

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION

When submitting your application, please include:

1. Fellowship application form – The form is available on APSS Website.
2. Brief curriculum vitae (not more than 4 pages) specifying: -
    a. Qualifications (including degree(s), institution (s) and years)
        i. Basic Medical Degree
        ii. Postgraduate Orthopaedic Education (e.g. FRCS Orth, MS Orth and etc.)
        iii. Spine Fellowship/ Attachment(s) – date and duration

b. Present appointment(s)
c. Publication/ Oral presentation/ Poster and etc.
d. Duration of experience in spine surgery

3. Scanned copies of certificates and qualifications.
4. 2 Letters of Recommendation from APSS Chapter Representatives or Heads of Departments (of Spine or Orthopaedics), or Presidents of Local Spine and Orthopaedic Societies).
5. Scanned passport-size photograph in JPEG file.
6. Scanned copy of passport – with at least 6 months validity.
7. 1 abstract related to spine of not more than 300 words. This abstract will be used for presentation in our next APSS meeting as well as during the fellowship.
8. Application Criteria form
9. 2024/2025 Spine logbook

Kindly complete your application online and ensure all required documents, as stated above, are uploaded accordingly.

The **closing date** to receive the completed application is **30th APRIL 2026**.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The co-host will cover economy air travel (round trip). Accommodation and airport transfer at the host centre for fellows will be arranged by the host.

As a recipient of a highly regarded fellowship, it is imperative that one adheres to the guidelines, terms, and conditions stipulated by the programme. The following are advised, with utmost gravity:

A. Cancellation or Withdrawal:

Cancellation or withdrawal from the fellowship programme **within three months prior** to the start date, without justifiable cause, will require fellows to reimburse any expenses incurred by APSS and the host institution.

Failure to complete the 3-week fellowship, or withdrawal during the programme duration, without a valid reason, will result in:

- A five-year ban from applying for any future APSS fellowships.
- Reduced allowances and reimbursements for costs incurred during the fellowship.

B. Completion of the Programme and Reporting Requirements:

- ***Reporting Obligations***
  Fellows must submit a fellowship report, fellowship feedback form(s), and reimbursement form within three (3) weeks of completing the programme.

- ***Feature in APSS Newsletter/Yearbook***
  Fellows are required to write and submit a write-up summarising their fellowship experience. The testimonial will be reviewed and featured in the APSS newsletter and/or APSS Yearbook, subject to the decision by the APSS Newsletter Sub-Committee.

- ***APSS Presentation Opportunity***
  Fellows may be invited to present their fellowship experience at the APSS Annual Meeting, subject to invitation from the Society. When the invitation is received, fellows will be required to submit an abstract and prepare a PowerPoint presentation summarising their experience and outcomes during their fellowship.

- ***Consequences of Non-Compliance***
  Failure to fulfil reporting obligations may result in withholding or denial of reimbursement.

C. Medical, Travel Insurance and Meal Expenses:
Fellows are responsible for securing adequate medical and travel insurance coverage for the duration of the fellowship, which includes meal expenses. Any costs arising from illness, injury, or personal matters during the fellowship will be borne by the fellow.

D. Congress Registration Fees
If the fellow decides to accept the invitation to attend the APSS Annual Meeting, the congress registration fees shall be borne by the fellow.

E. Compliance with Host Regulations:
Fellows must comply with all regulations set by the host institution. Any misconduct or penalties incurred in the host country are the sole responsibility of the fellow.

F. Cultural Sensitivity and Local Laws:
Fellows must respect the local customs, laws, and regulations of the host country. Any legal issues, fines, or violations arising from negligence or ignorance will be the sole responsibility of the fellow. APSS reserves the right to terminate the fellowship prematurely and deny reimbursement of allowances and costs in cases of unprofessional conduct, following discussions with the host centre.

G. Professional Conduct:
Fellows are urged to fulfil all obligations outlined in the fellowship guidelines, ensuring a professional, successful, and mutually beneficial experience. Maintaining a professional demeanour and a strong commitment to responsibilities is paramount.

For more information, please visit www.apssonline.org

For any enquires you may email us:
Email: apss.secretariat@gmail.com
Correspondence hours: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm (GMT +8.00 for Philippines)