

## IFS ART FELLOWSHIP (Clinical) 24.08.2014

### Background

#### **The Need**

Almost 10% of all couples desirous of pregnancy have difficulty in conceiving. With the advent of Assisted Reproductive Techniques (ART), infertility has become a treatable medical condition. Approximately 10% of infertile couples will require advanced ART techniques to overcome infertility. New IVF centers are opening up at a very fast pace. Increasing number of Obstetrics and Gynaecology postgraduates are interested in providing ART services. However, there are very few post-doctoral structured training program in ART in India. Fellowship of the National Board and Rajiv Gandhi University In Bangalore are few examples. There is a huge unmet need for such courses.

#### **The Role Of IFS**

Indian fertility society was founded in 2005 in New Delhi with the idea of giving a platform for interested professionals to communicate and interact with each other at a national level. Presently there are about 1000 members and 10 regional chapters throughout India. The society has been holding regular CME's and workshops in the field of ART to promote the latest knowledge. One of the main objectives of the society is to promote education in the field of ART. It is proposed that a fellowship program in ART be started under the aegis of IFS.

A proposal was tabled by Dr Umesh Jindal which served as the outline of the program. A drafting committee was formulated with four members during IFS Executive Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013 at New Delhi. Following were the members of the committee:-

Dr Nalini Mahajan

Dr Umesh Jindal

Dr Sandeep Talwar

Dr Pankaj Talwar

This committee was entrusted the task to draw an outline and send it to the governing body for final approval. The draft was submitted and accepted in principal subject for final approval by the new executive to take charge in April 2014.

#### **Education committee**

With the new executive committee taking charge the education committee has been reconstituted.

**Chair :** Dr Sonia Malik (president IFS)

**Co- Chair:** Dr Sudha Prasad (Secretary IFS)

**Convener:** Dr Nalini Mahajan

**Members:** Dr Pankaj Talwar, Dr Shweta Mittal , Dr. Neena Malhotra, Dr. Gita Radhakrishnan, Dr. L.K. Dhaliwal, Dr. Manju Puri

**Course co-ordinator:** Dr Umesh Jindal

**Co-opted member:** Dr. Kuldeep Jain

The duration of the tenure of the education committee will be four years. Committee will be renominated by the new executive in 2016 after elections of the society.

## **Objectives**

1. To provide structured training program in clinical ART to OBGYN postgraduates
2. To provide training to OBGYN practitioners already having ART centers
3. To start training programs in other allied disciplines e.g. embryology, nursing, IVF Laboratory technology, ultrasound, counselling etc in due course of time.

## **General Description**

**Name of Course:** IFS ART fellowship (Clinical)

1. **Supervisory body:** Indian Fertility society (IFS). IFS will make attempts to get the course recognized by ESHRE or a suitable Indian university. Dr Sudha Prasad, honorary secretary IFS has been assigned the task to open a dialogue with Indira Gandhi Open University (IGNOU). Efforts to be made to get it recognized by ICMR also.

**Executive Body:** Education committee of IFS.

Dr. Kuldeep Jain, Dr. Sonia Malik and Dr. Gauri Devi to look into these matters.

**Duration of the Course:** one year

## **Responsibilities and rights of the Education committee**

2. To finalize the proposal including all details.
3. Get it approved by a university (suggested IGNOU/ICMR).
4. Invite applications for the registration of centres. To screen the applications according to the criteria laid, inspect and approve the centres. Issue the certificate of registration along with the number of sanctioned seats in each centre. The committee will be authorized to derecognize the non-performing centres.
5. Invite applications from interested candidates, hold the examination, prepare the list of selected candidates and allocate seats.
6. Hold the exit examination, declare the result and issue appropriate certificates.
7. Draft the curriculum and help the centres to organise the teaching program. (See Curriculum for details)
8. Draft the requirements of the log book
9. Issue the certificate of recognition to the faculty and centres.
10. Hold a convocation along with the annual conference to award fellowship certificates and felicitate the centres and faculty.
11. To plan and formulate new courses
12. Troubleshooting and coordinate with national executive

### **Proposed qualifications for faculty**

To be designated by the education committee from interested senior IFS members who are keen to take students and initiate the program at their Centre.

1. Experience of more than 10 years in the field of ART.
2. Willingness and commitment to teaching in ART.
3. Postgraduate in OBGYN from a recognized institution in India and MCI registered.
4. Attached to an IFS recognized center.
5. Member of IFS for at least five years and active participation in various activities of IFS.

The interested faculty will have to apply formally to the education committee with necessary documents. The applications will be screened for approval by at least three committee members.

### **Benefits to the faculty**

Teaching faculty will get preference during conferences for inclusion in scientific program. The head of the institute will be course director for the center.

Their services will be recognized by IFS and felicitated at the time of convocation. Their names to be included in fellowship certificates.

### **Junior Faculty**

1. Consultants interested in teaching with 5-10 years of experience/qualification (FNB, Fellowship) will be enrolled as Junior faculty. They will be part of the training program on behest of the Head of the Centre. They will be appointed at the discretion of the course director of the respective training centers.
2. The education committee won't have any role in their appointment but their names must be approved by the education committee.
3. Their services will be recognized by IFS. But they will not be allowed to have independent candidate. After completion of ten years they will be allowed to have independent candidates.
4. The duties of the faculty will include practical training, teaching theory, organizing CMEs and holding examinations

### **Centers**

- The Centre should be doing at least 200 IVF cycles per year.
- Should have well equipped IVF laboratory.
- There should be at least two full time ART specialists and one experienced full time embryologist.
- The center should have well equipped library having good collection of text and reference books along with access to Internet facility for the fellows.

- The center should conform to the requirements laid down in the ART draft Bill and recognized by the ICMR or appropriate authority of the state.
- Center should be recognized by IFS for training after appropriate inspection for a period of five years. A reregistration would be required after 5 years.
- The center will have to undertake the responsibility in writing to complete the course curriculum and provide necessary facilities.
- A center may terminate the registration at any time if there is a valid unforeseeable event. In case any candidate is attached he/she will be adjusted in another center. The fee taken by the center would be transferred to the other center.
- IFS may terminate the registration of any center, if the feedback given by the fellows is not up to the mark.

#### **Number of centers and seats**

- Initially 10 centers are to be registered. All the chapters will be informed and applications invited from interested centers.
- In case more centers apply, then education committee would be authorized to select or reject centers based on merit.
- Seats per center will be decided on the basis of number of cycles performed by a center. One seat per 200 cycles per year will be allowed and two seats for 400 cycles. No more than 2 candidates will be allowed per center per year.
- In case a candidate fails to join or leaves the center within 3 months of joining then the seat will allotted to next in the merit list and 50% fee refunded to the candidate..
- If the candidate leaves after 3 months then the seat would be considered lapsed and no fee refunded to the candidate.
- There would be registration fee of Rs. 50,000 (fifty thousand only) which should be deposited by the centre at the time of grant of registration certificate to the IFS Secretariat.

#### **Eligibility for candidates for entrance exam**

- Postgraduate in OBGYN (MD/DNB) from a recognized institute in India.
- Candidates who have working knowledge and experience in transvaginal ultrasound for at least six months will be preferred
- Registered with the MCI
- Nationality Indian (the course may be opened to other nationalities later on).
- The candidate must be a life member of IFS. If he/she is not a member then the candidate would be required to become a member.

### **Entrance Exam**

1. Competitive examination to be conducted by IFS education committee during the month of August every year.
2. The candidates will appear for theory (MCQ) and viva exam with breakup of 70% and 30 % marks respectively in Delhi. [ The exam to be held along with the mid-term executive meeting of IFS]
3. The candidates will have to clear the examination and take an attachment/employment with the allotted center
4. Candidates will have to score at least >50% marks separately to be eligible for fellowship.
5. IFS will prepare the merit list and allot centers according to the preference given.
6. Final decision will rest with the selection committee.
7. In case of more than one candidate interested in any particular center, the decision will be based upon merit
8. The seats would be advertised on IFS website at least 3 months before exam, IFS news bulletin and through members and state chapters
9. Details of exam, application form, dates, terms and conditions to be put on IFS website and also individual centers website at least 3 months before exam. Social media networks can also be used for publicity
10. There would be an examination fee of Rs. 1000 (one thousand only) to be used by the education committee to organize the examination.
11. IFS will not pay any expenses towards travel or stay for the examination.
12. In case any candidate is not able to join within one month the seat will be given to next in the waiting list.

### **Training: responsibilities of the teaching center**

1. The course director will be responsible for completing the syllabus
2. There will be uniform curriculum training methodology for all centers.
3. Inviting teaching faculty from other centers is solely their responsibility and is not the essential part of the teaching program.
4. The candidates will be given advice on course material. No course material would be prepared. Candidates would be guided about the ART books and the Centre should have well equipped library (reference books) and Internet facilities for the candidates. A list of books recommended would be given.
5. The responsibility of practical training will be with the ART specialist of the institution.

### **Training: Responsibilities of candidates**

- The candidate will be required to complete training in an IFS recognized center for one year.
- The sessions will be repeated yearly starting in September.
- The candidates will be required to maintain a log book according to the prescribed format.

- The candidates will have to participate in activities of the IVF center to which they are attached.
- It will be compulsory to present at least one research paper during the annual IFS conference before receiving the certificate.
- It would be preferable to do one-month rotatory internship at some other IFS recognized center after 10 months of training at the parent institute. Such training would be at the discretion of the candidate and the training centers for obvious practical reasons. IFS will not be responsible for such placement.
- In case the candidate leaves the course after 3 months, no fee would be refunded.
- No shifting of centers would be allowed after joining the center.

### **Exit Examination**

1. At the end of one year there will be a qualifying exit examination to be organized by the education committee of IFS
2. The overall coordination will be done by the course coordinator and education committee of IFS in consultation with course in charge of different centers.
3. Two examiners will appointed by the education committee to conduct the entrance and exit examination.
4. The examiners will be selected from eminent faculty not having IFS fellowship training centres. No internal examiner would be present.
5. The exam will consist of one three hour theory paper and one practical session. The log book will also carry marks to be included in final assessment. (See curriculum for details) the exam will be held in Delhi.
6. Marks weightage will be as follows; Theory-150, practical =250, log book= 100, Total =500
7. The candidate to be declared passed will have to score at least 50% marks in theory, practical & log book separately.
8. Unsuccessful candidates will be allowed three attempts to clear the final examination.
9. A performance commentary regarding training center evaluation to be submitted by all candidates at the completion of course.

### **Certificate**

- Successful candidates will be awarded certificate during the inaugural/convocation ceremony of annual conference and a testimonial by the center.
- The certificate will be signed by the President IFS, course co-ordinator and course director.
- The IFS will also felicitate the participating centers and faculty during convocation.
- The best past out candidate will be given a reward (certificate & medal with a prize of money to be decided by committee.

**Fees:**

- Will be Rs. 2, 50,000 (Rupees two lac and fifty thousand to be paid in advance).
- The draft will be made in the name of IFS.
- Out of this 1.50 lacs would be given to the centre for meeting sultry expenditure.
- 1.0 lac /-INR will be retained by the governing body per candidate.
- The fee accepted by IFS will be utilized towards advertisement / travelling of faculty/ paperwork / holding exams and other expenses.
- The center accepting the candidate will be responsible to pay suitable remuneration for the services done by the candidate. A uniform stipend to be decided by IFS.