



## **Obstetric Anaesthesia Fellowships**

**(Under the auspices of Association of Obstetric Anaesthesiologists, AOA  
India)**

The Association of Obstetric Anesthesiologists of India was formed to implement and maintain highest standard of anesthetic practice for the care of parturients and their new borne children. To achieve this goal, it was decided in the Executive meeting and the General body meeting in 2012 to start a Fellowship program in Obstetric anesthesia in affiliated institutions which fulfill the criteria laid down for the same by AOA. The rules and prerequisites mentioned below may be changed by the executive members of AOA and the general body of the Association for smooth running of the program.

**The fees charged shall be Rs. 35,000 (for one fellow, includes AOA life membership fees) for the course of one year to be paid by the institution to AOA at the time of admission of the Fellow.**

### **A. Objectives of the program**

**1. The fellowship program would be for anesthesiologists who have passed the post graduate degree (MD/ DNB) or diploma examination in Anaesthesiology (from an institute recognized by MCI) who wish to concentrate in the field of obstetric anaesthesia. The duration of this fellowship would be 1 year. For anesthesiologists who have passed their Diploma in Anaesthesia (from an institute recognized by MCI) the duration of this fellowship would be 18 months. .**

**2. It is expected that on successful completion of the fellowship program the candidate will be able to demonstrate the following –**

- a. Knowledge of the basic sciences relevant to a parturients and the fetus during the peri operative / peri partum period along with anaesthetic implications.**
- b. A thorough knowledge of the patho-physiology, methods of evaluation and treatment of the maternal disorders and pregnancy complications contributing to high fetal risk and early newborn problems. A full knowledge and competence in all of the**

modalities of providing safe anaesthetic both in emergency and elective situations to a parturient. Competence in the management of all acute and chronic problems within the discipline of anaesthesia / high risk parturients.

- c. An understanding of the organization of health services in the areas of perioperative parturient care.
- d. Understanding of the methods of quality assurance and audit.

**B. Program requirements: The following are essential requirements for initiating the fellowship program –**

### **1. Institutions**

The institution where the AOA fellowship program would be allowed should be a teaching hospital (government or private) or NABH accredited institution certified for postgraduate degree / diploma / DNB course in anesthesiology. **The hospital / institution should meet the following criteria**

- a. At least 150 beds or more
- b. At least 100 deliveries per month, with an epidural uptake rate of 35% and above
- a. Operation theatre complex, having a facility for an emergency surgery, with all basic monitoring modalities
- b. Anaesthesia department offering labour analgesia as per standard protocols
- c. Well established Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology with a trained gynecologist available round the clock
- d. Labour rooms and delivery rooms with separate staff as per standard guidelines
- e. A facility for NICU/PICU with neonatologists/Pediatrician available round the clock.
- f. A high dependency unit or an ICU for monitoring and respiratory assistance of the parturient.

### **2. Personnel / Faculty**

**The Department of anesthesia in such institution should have the following -**

- a. A minimum of 2 senior consultants including their head of the Department
- b. A minimum of 2 junior consultants
- c. At least 2- 4 senior residents or registrars

- d. The Faculty should have an obstetric anaesthesia experience, with at least 25 - 30% time spent in Obstetric anaesthesia
- e. The Faculty should be actually involved in ongoing academic achievements like publications, presentations, audits and conduct of research.

### **3. Resources**

#### **The following resources should be available in the institution**

- a. Anaesthesia office with Library, Journals and access to internet
- b. Fetal monitoring in labour ward
- c. Laboratory
- d. Blood bank (either in hospital or easy availability of blood and blood products)

### **4. Teaching modules**

#### **The Fellowship program should enable a fellow to acquire the following skills at the end of the course**

- a. Spinal anaesthesia with pencil point needles.
- b. Epidural analgesia / anaesthesia
- c. Combined spinal epidural anaesthesia
- d. Airway management – intubation and laryngeal mask airway or other Supralaryngeal devices - both for elective and rescue airway management
- e. Exposure to Video-Laryngoscopy and other advanced Airway management techniques
- f. Management of obstetric difficult airway
- g. Exposure to usage of USG in Anaesthetic practice (Neuraxial, Invasive lines, ONSD etc)
- h. Central line insertion
- i. Arterial line insertion
- j. Management algorithm for Postpartum Headache including Blood patch
- k. Research and Methodology course exposure and encourage presenting a paper at AOA National meet

#### **The candidates during their training program should have an exposure to the following cases**

- a. Standard anaesthesia – neuraxial and general- for caesarean section
- b. High risk caesarean sections
- c. High risk maternal vaginal deliveries

- d. Conduct of anaesthesia for non obstetric surgery in parturients.
- e. Monitoring and management of critically ill parturients

### **5. Curriculum**

- a. A minimum of 10 ½ months in labour and delivery unit
- b. One month in high dependency units or ICU
- c. 2 weeks in neonatal unit
- d. Maintenance of log books duly certified by the faculty members
- e. Participation in the routine teaching program of the Department. Each fellow should have presented one journal club, one seminar and one case discussion in a six month period.
- f. Presentation and participation in Audits
- g. Attendance in anaesthesia / AOA conference, presentation of papers and publication of articles should be encouraged

### **6. Selection of Fellows**

- a. Eligibility: Candidates should have a Postgraduate degree or Diploma or DNB in Anaesthesiology from an Institution recognized by the Medical Council of India.
- b. Selection of candidates would be based on an interview held by the local hospital authorities.

### **7. Stipend and Fees:**

The approved hospitals shall pay a stipend equivalent to DNB fellowship or higher (suggested at least Rs. 35,000 per month)

### **8. Application procedure**

Applications for obtaining permission for starting the fellowship program should be addressed to the President, Association of Obstetric Anaesthesiologists and should reach his / her office latest by 1<sup>st</sup> September of a calendar year. The program should start from the 1<sup>st</sup> January of a calendar year. At least one member of the Fellowship committee of AOA may visit the hospital / institution if required to verify the resources available for initiating the program in the institution / hospital.

### **9. Exit Exam**

After successful completion of the fellowship (duly certified by the Head of the Department of the Institution) all fellows would need to be 'certified for the grant of the Fellowship" by the two members of the AOA Fellowship committee / or any other examiner as decided by the AOA. This exit interview /exam would be held annually at a suitable venue which is acceptable to the institutions or during the Annual conference of AOA and would be common to all fellowship programs being conducted by various centers. Appropriate exam fee will be levied as per the actual expenses of the external examiners (Food, Air travel, Local airport transfers and Local stay in decent hotel / Guest house (Having Minimum 3\* facility).