

Tour Report ICMR- International Fellowship 2018-19 (Senior Scientist Category)

ICMR Sanction no: INDO/FRC/452/S-02/2018-19-IHD ; dated- 9th October 2018

1. **Name and designation of ICMR-IF:** Dr. Saurabh Varshney
2. **Address / Current Affiliation:** Professor & Head, Department of Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) & Head neck Surgery, All India Institute of Medical Sciences , Rishikesh- 249203 (Uttarakhand)
3. **Frontline area of training:** TORS (Trans Oral Robotic Surgery) for Head neck cancer patients.
4. **Host Institute:** Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Eye & Ear Institute, 203 Lothrop Street, University of Pittsburgh, PA 15213, USA
5. **Fellowship duration:** 15 Days (1st November – 15th November 2018)

Fellowship Tour description:

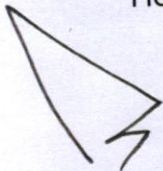
Itinerary: My trip started on 30th October 2018 in the morning (6.00 am) with Air India flight from Dehradun to New Delhi. My next flight from New Delhi to Pittsburgh (via New York) was on 31st October in early morning hours (01.35 am). My flight reached New York on 31st October (07.35 am) and onward flight to Pittsburgh on 31st October 2018 was at 03.29 pm) which reached Pittsburgh on 31st October 2018 (05.22 pm). I took a taxi from Pittsburgh airport to hotel (Oakland) and reached the hotel on 31st October 2018 (07.00 pm).

Training schedule at Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Eye & Ear Institute, 203 Lothrop Street, University of Pittsburgh, PA 15213, USA was from 01 – 14 , November 2018.

On 15th November 2018 , I left Hotel at 7.00 am for Pittsburgh airport and took flight (Delta airlines) from Pittsburgh (11.15 am) to New York (13.00 hours), and further had connecting flight on 15th November from New York to New Delhi (Air India- 14.25 hours) and reached New Delhi on 16th November 2018 (14.50 hours IST), and further took flight for Dehradun (17.20 hours) and reached Dehradun on 16th November 2018 (18.45 hours) and reached AIIMS, Rishikesh on 16th November 2018 (20.00 hours) and joined duties at my institute next day i.e. on 17th November 2018.

6. Highlights of training:

- 01st November 2018 reported in Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Eye & Ear Institute, 203 Lothrop Street, University of Pittsburgh and completed formalities like filling up forms and taking my ID card as Clinical Observer in Head neck Oncology (including Robotics).



- Reported in OPD to Dr. Umamaheshwar Duvvuri and spent the day till evening in the OPD with him seeing patients. Further, I was given a schedule to follow with Dr. Umamaheshwar Duvvuri, Dr. Seungwon Kim and Dr. Shaum Sridharan- Head neck Oncosurgeons and Robotic surgeons.
- I was an observer in Operating room- Head and Neck Oncological / Robotic Surgeries on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, Outdoor (OPD) on Tuesday and on Friday I was allowed to practice Robotic simulation training/ surgery on the Mimic trainer in Robotic training lab (under supervision of Daniel Battista, Director of Robotics and Outpatient Operations).
- I observed various Head neck Oncological procedures, specifically robotic surgeries- TORS (Trans Oral Robotic Surgery) for Head neck cancers which were difficult to operate by conventional approaches, besides practicing Robotic simulation training/ surgery on the Mimic trainer in Robotic training lab
- Also had an opportunity to observe Flexible robotic surgery (Medrobotic) in Head neck, the equipment is at very limited centers in the world.
- Saturday and Sunday were non working days of the institute.
- I completed my observership on 14th November 2018 and was issued Observership completion certificate on 14th November (5.30 pm).


Technique / Expertise acquired: TORS (Trans Oral Robotic Surgery) for Head neck cancer patients.

Proposed utilization of experience in India:

The incidence of Head and Neck carcinoma is increasing in India leading to more patients reporting to tertiary care centers for health care. Sites like base of tongue, Oropharynx, hypopharynx etc, are difficult to operate by conventional approaches due to accessibility issues. For such inaccessible sites, TORS approach can be used to operate more effectively and cure the patient. Our institute has already procured Da Vinci Xi Surgical Robot, 6 months back and is being used to operate Urology, Gynaecology and Gastroenterology cases. This advanced technique is being done only at very few centres in our country The current training and experience will help to initiate TORS and provide benefit for Head and Neck cancer patients attending AIIMS Rishikesh.

Date: 27th November 2018

Place: Rishikesh


(Saurabh Varshney)
Dr. SAURABH VARSHNEY
Professor & Head (ENT)