

# International Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons

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## Press Release

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**Cleft Lip and Palate and Oral Oncology First Focus Areas  
for Association's New Educational Program**

## First IAOMS International Fellowships Announced

July 2010

In the first-ever annual competition by the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (IAOMS), the IAOMS Foundation under the direction of the Association's Academic Committees, has awarded three Fellowships to individuals from Spain, India, and Singapore; Sergio Ramirez Varela, Rinku George, and Andrew Ow, respectively. Applications were available to candidates worldwide with the successful candidates chosen from a group of more than 30 applicants. Over 120 IAOMS members and nonmembers from more than 40 countries requested application packets for the three Fellowships. Only IAOMS members were allowed to actually submit an application.

The first IAOMS Fellowships in Cleft Lip and Palate and Craniofacial Surgery, and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Oncology, were chosen due to the huge international need for more specialists in these two areas.

### Cleft Lip and Palate and Craniofacial Surgery

Awarded the Fellowship in Cleft Lip and Palate and Craniofacial Surgery was Sergio Ramirez Varela of Madrid, Spain. Dr. Varela received his dental degree from the European University of Synthes. Madrid in 2009, his medical degree from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Alcala, and his OMS specialty training at the University Hospital Gregorio Marañon (1 year general surgery); Craniofacial Unit at the 12<sup>th</sup> of October Hospital in Madrid



The IAOMS Fellowships are generously underwritten by Biomet Microfixation and Synthes.



Sergio Ramirez Varela



Andrew Ow



Rinku George

The mission of the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons is to elevate the quality of healthcare worldwide through the advancement of the art and science of oral and maxillofacial Surgery. For more information, go to: [www.iaoms.org](http://www.iaoms.org) and [www.iaomsfoundation.org](http://www.iaomsfoundation.org).

(6 months craniofacial surgery and congenital deformities); Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Unit at the Manuel Gea Gonzalez Hospital in Mexico (3 months in the management of different craniosynostosis and other congenital deformities); and Maxillofacial Unit, Medical Centre Teknon in Barcelona (3 months orthognathic surgery). Additionally, every six months Dr. Varela participates in the "Cleft Lip and Palate Campaign" in Guanajuato State to operate on newborns and infants with cleft lip and palate and other craniofacial birth defects and he has 4 years' of experience in neurosurgery handling procedures such as craniotomies, craniectomies, and different approaches to skull-based tumors and craniosynostosis.

Dr. Varela will begin his Fellowship at the Arnold Palmer Children's Hospital in Orlando, Florida, USA under the direction of Dr. Ramon Ruiz. After two months in Orlando, Dr. Varela will then spend six months at Dr. Hasan Sadikin Hospital in Bandung, Indonesia under Dr. Asri Arumsari. He will finish up his one-year Fellowship with six months at the University of Pretoria in Pretoria, South Africa, under Dr. Kurt-Wilhelm Butow.

### **Oral and Maxillofacial Oncology and Reconstructive Surgery**

For the two Fellowships in oral and maxillofacial oncology and reconstructive surgery, the SIG Academic Committee for Oral Oncology has chosen Andrew Ow of Singapore and Rinku George of Chennai, India. Dr. Ow will serve his Fellowship at Shanghai Ninth People's Hospital in Shanghai, People's Republic of China under the direction of Professor Zhang Chen-ping. Dr. George's Fellowship will take place at Peking University School of Stomatology in Beijing under the direction of Professor Guang-yan Yu.

Dr. Ow received his Bachelor of Dental Surgery from the University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia; received his Masters of Dental Surgery in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

at the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, People's Republic of China; served as a Fellow at the Royal Austral-Asian College of Dental Surgeons in Australia; and obtained an Advanced Diploma in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Hong Kong. He is a member in Oral Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh and was appointed a Specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery by the Singapore Dental Council. He is an academic staff member at the National University Of Singapore, with a strong desire to practice and develop oral and maxillofacial reconstruction in the University Hospital. At the National University Hospital where he practices, there is also an established multi-disciplinary team involved in the maxillofacial rehabilitation of tumor patients. He also has prior experience from a University center (The University of Hong Kong) dealing with head and neck/oral and maxillofacial oncology and just recently completed his training in various aspects of oral and maxillofacial surgery.

Dr. George is a graduate of the Rajas Dental College in Tamil Nadu, completed his OMS specialty training at the Saveetha Dental College in Chennai, and served as a teaching faculty member in a post graduate institute for 8 ½ years, most recently at Karpaga Vinayaka Institute of Dental Sciences (K.I.D.S). Additionally, he has worked part-time at Christian Missions Charitable Trust for the past 11 years providing free treatment to the poorest of the poor. He is currently an observer at the Adyar Cancer Institute and hopes to be able to open a Cancer Centre at K.I.D.S. with his colleagues once he has completed the IAOMS Fellowship.

The three fellowships are being generously underwritten by Synthes and Biomet Microfixation. Information about the 2011-2012 IAOMS Fellowship programs will be announced in the Fall of 2010 with applications expected to be available on December 1, 2010.

## ***Sponsoring Institutions for the IAOMS 2010-2011 Fellowships***



*Shanghai Ninth People's Hospital*



*Dr. Hasan Sadikin Hospital*



*Peking University School of Stomatology*