



## A Story 25 Years in the Making

IAOMS Foundation programs play a vital role in shaping future surgeon leaders within the oral and maxillofacial surgical specialty. Initiatives such as the Fellowship Program have a tremendous effect on each recipient's life and career. The impact of the experience and the knowledge they acquire extends to colleagues with whom they practice and the patients they serve. For this reason, the IAOMS Foundation has been committed to providing hands-on training opportunities for nearly 25 years and it is why we are dedicated to expanding the reach of these influential programs.

*"It's not only a medical education experience, but also a life event story.  
I still share my stories with my students during lectures."*

-- **Mohammed Hassan Aljezooli**  
2014 - 2015 IAOMS Foundation Fellow

### Uncovering the Fellowship Effect

The Fellowship Program offers Senior Trainees and recent graduates an immersion year in their specialty. Through this program, they are exposed to resources and techniques that may otherwise be inaccessible to them. They also have the invaluable opportunity to learn about the latest developments and cutting-edge technology while training under some of the most accomplished OMF surgeons around the world.

To better understand the impact that these programs have, the Foundation recently conducted a survey of past recipients of its Fellowships. The survey highlighted the value of this program in numerous ways, most strikingly the Fellows' ability and willingness to share their newly acquired knowledge and skills with their peers. This has ultimately improved patient care and the overall quality of outcomes in their home countries.

Through this analysis, the Foundation has uncovered the **Fellowship Effect**; the compounding impact created when a Fellow shares the techniques they have learned with other surgeons, who continue to pass on the knowledge.

Results from the survey highlighted three key aspects of the Fellowship Effect:

**Adoption of New Techniques:** Respondents indicated having successfully treated a patient utilizing the technique they learned after returning home. Some expanded to share that they have conducted, on average, 17 procedures from the fellowship on an annual basis.

**Building A Community:** Nearly 90% of the respondents stated that they stay in touch with their peers from the program, while 100% indicated they maintained their relationships with their professors.

**Exponential Spread of Knowledge:** Eighty-six percent (86%) of respondents have trained colleagues after completion of the program. On average, each has shared their gift of knowledge with at least two other surgeons, trainees, and/or residents on an annual basis since returning home.

*"I have been in Turkey for three months after this fellowship program. Some of my colleagues have asked me for help about oncology. So far, I have done one free flap and three local flaps to help my colleagues."*

-- Ilker Burgaz  
2018 - 2019 IAOMS Foundation Fellow

### Revitalizing the OMFS Community for the Next 25 Years

The COVID-19 pandemic has hindered the ability to travel internationally and interrupted the Foundation's core of providing its in-person educational and training programs. However, in the presence of adversity, we were able to find new ways to stay connected, learn, and grow through our online education series. To continue to overcome these challenges, we are launching a year end appeal that aims to kick off next year's 25th anniversary celebration.

This year may prove to be one of the most critical in the Foundation's history. As we prepare our specialty to thrive for the next 25 years, we invite you to join us in this effort to strengthen the pipeline of future surgeon leaders. We are inspired and grateful by the support we have already received from members and industry stakeholders and look forward to the continued commitment of ensuring a bright future for the OMFS specialty.

*"After my training as an IAOMS fellow, I can operate on cancer patients. This has provided me with huge satisfaction as an OMFS and helped me to perform cancer surgeries with confidence. I am very grateful to IAOMS for preparing me to perform these surgeries."*

--Santosh Kumar Yadav  
2013 - 2014 IAOMS Foundation Fellow