

## **ASSN Guidelines to apply as a Reference Center for Fellowship programme**

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- The host Center must have the minimum case load of **100 spine surgeries per year**.
- The fellowship program should be mentor dependent. In case of untoward or unwanted circumstances when the mentor wouldn't be able to continue the fellowship program, the mentor or organization wouldn't be legally bound to continue the program.
- The fellowship program must have **structured syllabus with regular classes and academic activities**.
- As far as possible all pathologies should be addressed  
(Trauma/ Tumor/ Infection/ Deformity/Degenerative and Metabolic disorders etc )
- The Centers **should provide hands on training / regular bed side teaching / out-patient teaching programs**
- **Whenever possible the Fellows must be provided optimum stipend depending upon the capacity of the host center.**
- Mentor should be either Ortho-spine surgeon with minimum of 5 years of spine clinical practice with advanced level spine training.
- It should have adequate consultant level surgeons and enough registrar level surgeons and adequate man power with adequate resources
- In house critical care, physiotherapy - rehabilitation, radiology (CT,MRI, X rays), pathology services should be available.
- In house theatre facility with C Arm, Operating Microscope, Burrs with sufficient Spine instruments should be available.
- **Library/ internet access/ access to medical journals should be available.**
- Dedicated training - teaching and research time should be built.

- **Research output, publications and presentations should be emphasized.**
- **Logbook must be maintained and should be submitted to ASSN on completion of fellowship.**

### **Designating a Center as a Reference Center**

- Interested centers should apply using the application form as enclosed.
- The centre should apply to ASSN General Secretary.
- ASSN will designate an expert to evaluate if all eligibility criteria are met.
- Based on the evaluation of expert committee, the Executive and General Body of ASSN for would give the final approval.

### **Duration of Fellowship**

Short Term Fellowship: 3 months

Long term Fellowship: 6months to 1 year

Observership: On case basis