



**TAC**  
Transplant Accreditation  
and Certification, LLC



**ASTS**  
American Society of  
Transplant Surgeons

# FTC/TACC Abdominal Transplant Fellows Onboarding Webinar

**October 7, 2024**

# Welcome Fellows!

This presentation provides essential resources to help current and future fellows

- a) successfully complete their fellowship and,
- b) receive a Certificate of Completion AND TACC Certification.

# Who we are...

- **ASTS** (American Society of Transplant Surgeons)
  - **TACC** (Transplant Accreditation & Certification Council )
  - **FTC** (Fellowship Training Committee)

## **Transplant Accreditation & Certification Council purposes:**

- To improve the safety and quality of transplant care.
- To develop and maintain high standards of excellence by rigorous evaluation and accreditation of training programs.
- To establish professional standards through setting training benchmarks, examination, and certification of transplant surgeons.

### **Transplant Accreditation & Certification Council Members:**

Chair: John C. Magee, MD (2027)

Co-Chair: Kelly Collins, MD (2027)

Marc Melcher, MD, PhD (2025)

Patrick Dean, MD (2025)

Amy Evenson, MD (2026)

Kenneth Washburn, MD (2026)

C. Kristian Enestvedt, MD (2027)

Denise Lo, MD (2027)

James Guarrera, MD, FACS (2027)

FTC Chair: Kendra Conzen, MD (2025)

FTC Co-Chair: Fady Kaldas, MD, FACS (2025)

Staff Liaison: Jen Nelson-Dowdy

## **Fellowship Training Committee mission:**

- To ensure that clinical, professional, and scientific excellence are passed to future generations of transplant surgeons.
- To develop and champion a training framework that promotes lifelong learning, equity and inclusion in the transplant community, and compassion for ourselves, our colleagues and our patients.

### **Fellowship Training Committee Members:**

Chair: Kendra Conzen, MD (2025)

Vice-Chair: Fady Kaldas, MD, FACS (2025)

Vice Chair Elect: Michelle Nguyen, MD, MPH (2025)

Council Liaison: Sunil Geevarghese, MD, MSCI, FACS (2025)

Fellow Liaison: Emily Kerby, DO (2026)

Assoc. Member: Lindsay Powell, MSN, FNP-C, ACNP-C (2026)

Vidyaratna Fleetwood, MD (2025)

Thomas Pham, MD (2025)

Alex Zendel, MD (2025)

Jennifer Yu, MD (2026)

Motaz Selim, MD (2026)

Chaya Shwaartz, MD (2026)

Anushi Shah, MD (2027)

Anji Wall, MD, PhD (2027)

W. Christian Crannell, MD (2027)

Staff Liaisons: Wendy Berrios & Caitlin Keenan

# Roadmap of the webinar

## **I. General Session:**

- I. Fellowship Certificate of Completion requirements
- II. TACC Fellowship Certification Pathway overview
- III. Resources for fellows
  - I. ASTS/FTC resources
  - II. Local resources

## **II. Open Q&A session**

## **III. Break-out into small groups networking**

## **IV. Closing comments**

# Online resources webpage

<https://asts.org/transplant-accreditation-certification-council/fellowship-resources-and-requirements>

The screenshot shows the TAC (Transplant Accreditation and Certification, LLC) website. The header includes the TAC logo and a navigation menu with links like 'Welcome', 'Member Portal', and 'Sign Out'. The main content area is titled 'TAC / Fellowship Requirements' and features a large image of surgeons in an operating room. Below the image, the text reads 'Information for Fellows in Training' and 'If you are interested in learning more about becoming an Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellow contact [TACC@asts.org](mailto:TACC@asts.org)'. A section titled 'Become a Fellow in an Accredited Fellowship Program' explains that fellows must participate in the annual match. A 'MATCH INTO AN ACCREDITED' logo is visible. A sidebar on the right contains a list of links: 'TACC: Council and Committees', 'Fellowship Training Programs', 'Fellowship Requirements' (highlighted), 'Fellowship Certification Pathway', 'Career Certification Pathway', 'Career Recognition Certification Pathway', 'Program Accreditation', 'Program Director Resources', 'Match Information', and 'Fellowship in Transplantation Grant'. A 'Click here for help!' button is also present.

TAC / Fellowship Requirements

Information for Fellows in Training

If you are interested in learning more about becoming an Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellow contact [TACC@asts.org](mailto:TACC@asts.org)

**Become a Fellow in an Accredited Fellowship Program**

In order to become a fellow in an Accredited Fellowship Training Program you must participate in the annual match. The Abdominal Transplant Surgery Match is administered through SF Match.

**FELLOWSHIP CERTIFICATION**

MATCH INTO AN ACCREDITED

Click here for help!

Fellowship in Transplantation Grant

# Fellowship Completion Requirements

- Academic Universe
  - Case Log
  - National Transplant Curriculum
- Knowledge Assessment Exam
- Milestones form filled by PD bi-annually
- Complete 24 months of training
- Request certificate of completion



# Fellowship Completion Requirements

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## I. Required number of cases:

- **KNOW** your program's organ-specific accreditation.
- **KNOW** which track you matched in within your program.
- **KNOW** the number of cases needed for the certificate of completion.

Total Transplant Volume	<b>50</b>
Multi-Organ Procurements	<b>25</b>
Kidney	<b>40</b>
*Living Donor Nephrectomies	<b>12</b>
Liver	<b>45</b>
Pancreas	<b>10</b> transplants in the principal role <b>10</b> back table preparations <b>10</b> pancreas procurements
**Intestine	<b>10</b>
**Hepatobiliary	Minimum <b>35</b> HB Cases Minimum of <b>15</b> Hemihepatectomies Minimum of <b>15</b> Biliary procedures
**Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary	Minimum <b>50</b> HPB Cases Minimum of <b>15</b> Hemihepatectomies Minimum of <b>15</b> Biliary procedures Minimum of <b>15</b> Non-transplant major pancreatic procedures

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## II. Case log:

- **REQUIRED:** Fill the case log on Academic Universe.
- **ADVISABLE:** Start early and add cases periodically to avoid end of fellowship rush.
- **ADVISABLE:** Keep a log of ALL YOUR CASES, you will need them for many other reasons in the future.

# Fellowship Completion Requirements

- Academic Universe
  - Case Log
  - **National Transplant Curriculum**
- Knowledge Assessment Exam
- Milestones filled biannually by PD
- Complete 24 months of training
- Request certificate of completion

## National Transplant Curriculum:

- **REQUIRED:** Complete all required modules
- **ADVISABLE:** Start early and finish modules periodically to avoid end of fellowship rush

Curriculum Units	
Kidney	Pediatrics
Liver	Dialysis Access
Pancreas	Public Policy and Organ Allocation
Immunobiology & Pharmacology	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Anti-Racism
Organ Recovery	HB/HPB
Intestinal	Ethics
Medical Complications of Transplantation	

# Fellowship Completion Requirements

- Academic Universe
  - Case Log
  - National Transplant Curriculum
- **Knowledge Assessment Exam**
  - Required annual exam to assess fund of knowledge and clinical decision making (Test dates in April)
  - Online test, proctored by PD or program coordinator
  - 120 questions in 3 hours.
  - Passing score is  $\geq 50\%$  correct for combined first and second year tests.
  - Remediation options available if minimum score is not achieved (repeat exam and self-directed study)
  - Survey at the end of each exam session helps FTC and TACC build the future of training.
- Milestones filled biannually by PD
- Complete 24 months of training
- Request certificate of completion

# Fellowship Completion Requirements

- Academic Universe
    - Case Log
    - National Transplant Curriculum
  - Knowledge Assessment Exam
  - **Milestones filled biannually by PD**
  - **Complete 24 months of training**
  - Request certificate of completion
- Milestone forms by PD
  - 24 months of training (including 18 months of clinical training)

# Fellowship Completion Requirements

- Academic Universe
  - Case Log
  - National Transplant Curriculum
- Knowledge Assessment Test
- Milestones filled biannually by PD
- Complete 24 months of training
- **Request certificate of completion**

## REQUIRED:

Fellows are responsible for requesting their Certificate of Completion at the end of their fellowship.

Fellows must also complete the Fellows Exit Survey.

# Abdominal Transplant Surgeon Certification: Fellowship Certification Pathway

## ☐ Be eligible to apply for certification:

1. Complete a TACC Accredited Transplant Fellowship and receive a TACC Certificate of Completion
2. In practice for a minimum of one year at the time of the exam.
3. Post-fellowship surgical logs from the in-practice period

## ☐ Pass the Oral Exam

### FELLOWSHIP CERTIFICATION



# Fellows' Resources

- Managed Time Policy
- ASTS/FTC Resources
- ASTS Academic Universe
- Local Program Resources



# Fellows' Resources

- **Managed Time Policy**

- ASTS /FTC Resources

- ASTS Academic Universe

- Local Program Resources

## Managed Time Policy and fellows' well being:

- TACC requirements for accredited fellowship programs
  - One regional/national meeting attendance
  - Two weeks of vacation every year
  - One weekend off per month
  - Two additional 24-hour periods every month
- Discuss with PD how to schedule your vacation time, days off, conference attendance and fellows' symposium attendance.
- Discuss mechanisms to recognize and combat fatigue and exhaustion.

# Fellows' Resources

- Managed Time Policy
- **ASTS /FTC Resources**
- ASTS Academic Universe
- Local Program Resources

## FTC activities and resources

- Fellows' Symposium.
  - Fall of the second year.
  - Mandatory attendance does not count towards the fellows' vacation time or regional/national meeting requirement.
- FTC fellow member
  - Open for second year fellows
- Job townhall.
  - Watch previous sessions: <https://learn.asts.org/FTCJobResources>
- Surveys:
  - Anonymous
  - Help FTC to get a sense of the fellows' experience.
  - Help develop plans to improve the fellows' experience

# Fellows' Resources

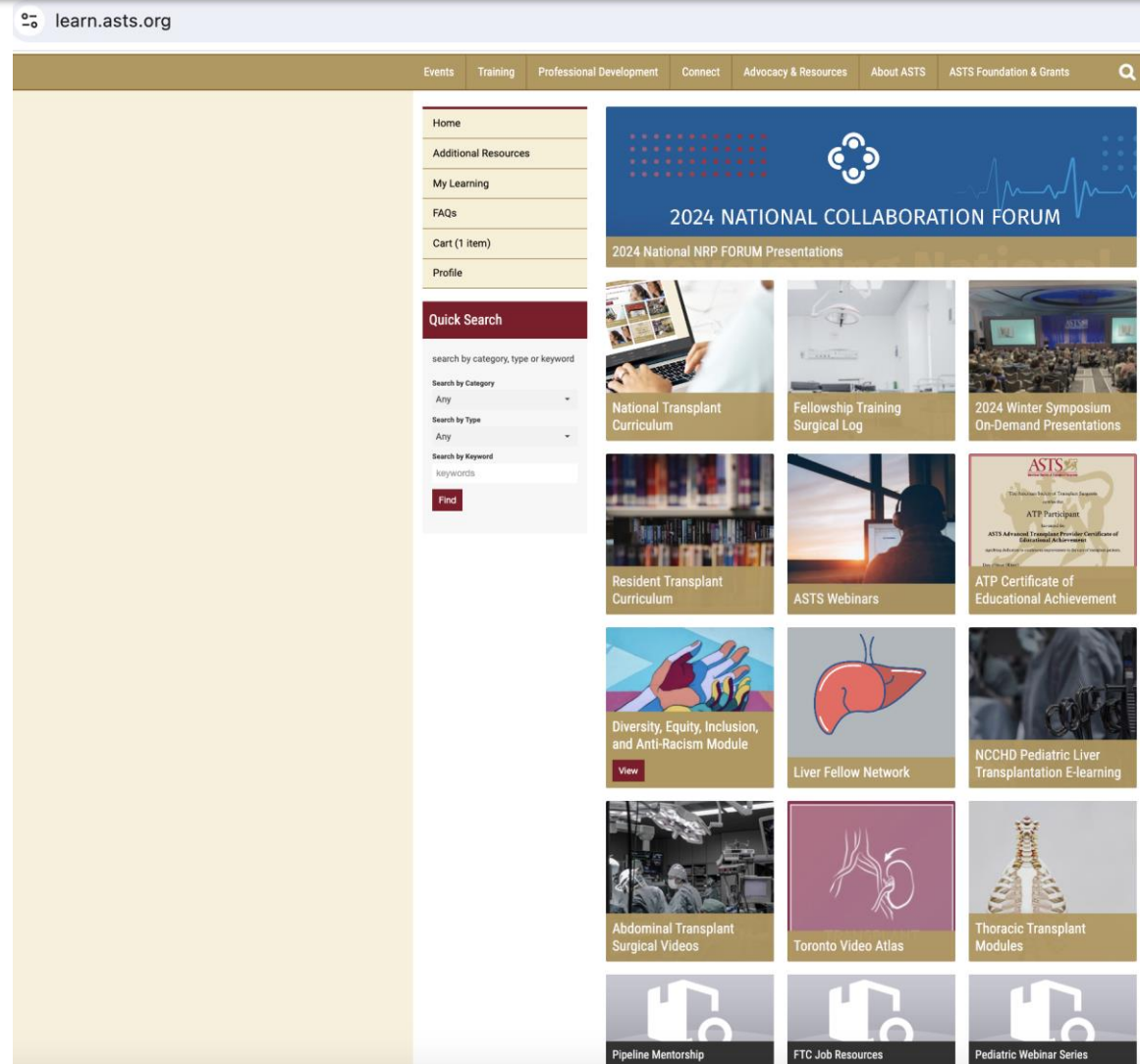
- Managed Time Policy
- **ASTS /FTC Resources**
- ASTS Academic Universe
- Local Program Resources

## Other ASTS activities:

- Journal club (Sponsored by Curriculum Committee)
- Fellows' directory
  - <https://members.asts.org/directories/fellows-directory>
- Wellness resources (including peer support)
  - <https://www.asts.org/advocacy/wellness-resources>
- Collaboration opportunities with other professional organizations:
  - AASLD Liver Fellow Network editing. <https://www.aasld.org/liver-fellow-network>

# Fellows' Resources

- Managed Time Policy
- ASTS /FTC Resources
- **ASTS Academic Universe**
- Local Program Resources



## Abdominal Transplant Fellows Onboarding Webinar

# Fellows' Resources

- Managed Time Policy
- ASTS /FTC Resources
- ASTS Academic Universe
- **Local Program Resources**

- Important to discuss with your program director the expectations for the fellowship and the available resources:
  - Educational requirements and opportunities.
    - Attendance in departmental and divisional meetings
    - e.g. M&M, grand rounds, selection committees, QAPI meetings etc.
  - Research expectations and opportunities
  - Evaluation process
  - Conflict resolution mechanisms and available peer support resources.