

**SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL  
ACCREDITATION OF BREAST SURGERY FELLOWSHIP - AT DEPT of SURGERY, NUH**

Institution: National University Hospital  
Period of Training: 6 - 12 months  
Department: Department of Surgery  
Training Program: Breast Surgery Fellowship

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR (PD)**

Dr Shaik Ahmad Buhari  
Senior Consultant and Asst Professor  
Division of Breast Surgery  
Department of Surgery, National University Hospital

**TRAINING DURATION AND LOCATION**

The duration of the fellowship training is 6 – 12 months. The training location will be at Department of Surgery, Ng Teng Fong Hospital, Alexandra Hospital and National University Hospital.

**NO. OF FELLOWS PER YEAR**

The division offers a maximum of 2 fellowship positions per year.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

1. MBBS (or equivalent)
2. Post-graduate qualifications in General Surgery (in home country) (preferred) or at least 2 years of postgraduate rotations in General Surgery, prior to embarking on this subspecialty rotation.

**OBJECTIVES OF TRAINING**

1. To develop the competencies to assess patients with breast diseases and to institute appropriate investigations and management within a multidisciplinary framework
2. To develop competencies in breast cancer specific surgery including sentinel nodes biopsy, breast conservative surgery and oncoplastic breast surgery

**COMPONENTS OF TRAINING**

1. Clinical exposure tailored to breast cancer clinics including New Case Clinics, Screening and Assessment Clinics, Counseling and Surveillance Clinics.  
This would include assisting at surgery.
2. Exposure to multidisciplinary clinics including multidisciplinary tumour boards and combined breast reconstruction clinics.
3. Established research collaborations locally and internationally, including participating in ongoing work in breast cancer genetics, epidemiology, metastatic profiling and advanced breast cancer management.

**METHOD OF TRAINING**

1. Daily in-patient clinical rounds with Breast Team
2. Attachment to outpatient clinics with Consultants, including running clinics under the supervision of the consultant-in-charge.
3. Participation in Multidisciplinary Breast Tumour Board.
4. Direct supervision in major operating theatre and day surgery operating theatre.
5. Participation in relevant teaching and training sessions e.g. weekly Journal Club, GS Grand Ward Round, GS Mortality and Morbidity Meeting, X-ray Rounds, Tumour Board meetings, etc.
6. Present cases assigned by the consultant at tumour board and grand round.
7. Participation in Division of General Surgery's on-call roster, which includes night duties, as a training requirement.

**FREQUENCY OF TRAINING**

The trainee will have direct supervision and training contact time with the Breast Team during the work week i.e. Monday to Friday.

**ROTATIONS TO OTHER DIVISIONS OR SERVICES**

The fellow will spend most of his training time with the Breast Service during his/her period of training. However, the fellow may be requested to rotate as to other Divisions or Services in Department of Surgery which is related to Breast Surgery:

- Division of General Surgery
- Division of Plastic Surgery
- Breast Imaging Service

This rotation will only be a minor component of the overall training and will be subject to the approval from the relevant department. The fellow will be practising at Department of Surgery, Ng Teng Fong Hospital, Alexandra Hospital and National University Hospital only.

Name of Institution	Percentage of Time	Department / Division(s)
National University Hospital	60-100%	Surgery / General Surgery & Breast Surgery
Alexandra Hospital	Maximum 20%	Surgery / General Surgery & Breast Surgery
Ng Teng Fong Hospital	Maximum 20%	Surgery / General Surgery & Breast Surgery

#### **SUPERVISION**

1. A supervising consultant will be assigned to oversee and co-ordinate learning and clinical activities of the fellow for the 6 – 12 months of training. He/ she will not be assigned to supervise more than 2 fellows or more depending on the eligibility of the supervision under the guidelines of SMC.
2. He/she will be responsible for the evaluation of fellow's progress and will give feedback to the fellow regarding areas of concern.
3. All clinical work that the fellow is responsible for will be supervised by the senior consultants or consultants within the team.
4. The fellow would be supervised by a SMC-approved supervisor from the Department of Surgery, Ng Teng Fong Hospital, Alexandra Hospital and National University Hospital only, at all times.

#### **ASSESSMENT METHOD**

1. Assessment of the fellows will be as per the SMC assessment and assessed by the assigned supervisors.
2. The supervisors will assess with inputs from the other consultants within the Breast team or consultants from other teams attached.
3. This assessment will be given and discussed with the fellow. Any area needing improvement will also be discussed.
4. Fellows will keep a logbook of clinics attended as well as cases assisted at surgery or presented at meetings.

#### **RESEARCH**

1. All fellows would be encouraged to take part in division related audits and research projects.
2. Fellows will be actively engaged in research implementation, design and execution.
3. All research will be in accordance to the department protocol and DSRB.

#### **CRITERIA FOR TERMINATION**

Fellows who display unprofessional behavior, or show significant inadequacies in clinical competence will be counseled. This counseling process will be documented. If the fellow fails to improve following remediation, he would be recommended for termination. Decision to terminate would be jointly discussed and decided by the fellow's supervisor and the consultants with the services or division.

#### **FEEDBACK MECHANISM FOR TRAINEES**

Fellow is encouraged to provide direct feedback to the Program Director during the quarterly review and written feedback at 6 months' interval. Fellow will approach the Head of the division or department for issue related to the Program Director.