

# ISOT TRANSPLANT IMMUNOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

ISOT Transplant Immunology Fellowship aims to develop a national cadre of clinicians with advanced expertise in immunological risk assessment, immune monitoring, rejection management, and individualized immunosuppression—strengthening transplant outcomes and scientific leadership across India.

## Program Timeline:

### Phase 1: Accreditation of Centers

**Opens:** 9th April 2026  
**Closes:** 20th April 2026

### Phase 2: Candidate Selection

**Opens:** 1st May 2026  
**Closes:** 20th May 2026

### Phase 3: Matching & Program Start

**Matching Period:** 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 – 30th May 2026  
**Mentorship Duration:** 3 months

## 1. Fellowship Program

### Eligible Centers

Only Indian transplant centers registered with ISOT and performing solid organ transplantation (Kidney ± Liver ± Heart ± Lung) are eligible.

- Fellowship is single-center based, with accreditation reviewed every five years
- Centers must have an active transplant program with structured long-term follow-up
- Demonstrated immunology-driven decision-making in transplant care is mandatory

### Application Process

Centers must submit an official application signed by:

- Program Director (Transplant Nephrologist / Transplant Physician / Immunologist)
- Hospital CEO / Medical Superintendent / Director Medical Services

The application confirms institutional accountability regarding:

- Transplant case volume
- Immunological risk stratification protocols
- Access to transplant immunology diagnostics
- Availability of multidisciplinary transplant teams

## **Training Infrastructure**

Accredited centers must demonstrate:

Mandatory Immunology Infrastructure (in-house or formal linkage):

- HLA laboratory (CDC, Flow Crossmatch)
- Solid phase assays (Luminex / SAB)
- DSA monitoring protocols
- Immunogenetics & antibody interpretation support

Clinical Exposure To:

- Pre-transplant immunological risk assessment clinics
- Post-transplant immunology follow-up
- Protocol & indication biopsies
- Multidisciplinary transplant meetings

## **Faculty Requirements**

At least one Lead Faculty (Program Director) with:

- $\geq 5$  years' experience in clinical transplant immunology
- Active involvement in desensitization, rejection management & immunosuppression protocols
- ISOT membership (mandatory)

Additional Teaching Faculty:

- Transplant nephrologist / hepatologist
- Immunologist / HLA laboratory lead
- Clinical pharmacologist (immunosuppressants)

## **Renewal Guidelines**

An ISOT Transplant Immunology Fellowship Committee (President, Secretary, TI Module Lead, Executive Members) will:

- Review case exposure
- Assess fellow feedback
- Evaluate academic output
- Conduct formal review every 2 years

## **Fellow Intake**

- Maximum 2 fellows per center per cycle
- Centers with limited exposure to high-risk immunology may require short external rotations

## **Fellowship Duration & Funding**

3-Month Fellowship

- Focused clinical immunology exposure
- Suitable for practicing transplant physicians
- Condensed academic requirements
- No Monthly stipend paid by host center
- ISOT provides academic governance only

## **2. Candidate Selection**

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Applicants must hold:

- Recognized medical degree
- Valid NMC registration

Eligible Backgrounds:

- DM/DNB Nephrology
- DM/DNB Hepatology
- MCh/DNB Urology

## **Training Exposure**

Fellows will participate in:

- Pre-transplant immunological risk assessment
- Desensitization planning
- Post-transplant immune monitoring
- Rejection work-up & treatment planning
- MDT discussions integrating pathology & immunology

## **Mandatory Rotation**

- Transplant Immunology Clinic
- HLA Laboratory & Immunogenetics
- Transplant Pathology
- Transplant ICU (Rejection focus)
- Clinical Pharmacology (IS drugs)
- External Immunology Posting

## **Academic Requirements**

Mandatory participation in:

- Journal clubs (immunology-focused)
- Case-based MDT discussions
- Maintenance of ISOT Immunology E-Logbook

Minimum requirements:

- One audit / research project (immunology-based)

- One conference presentation or manuscript submission (preferred)

## **3. Curriculum**

### **Core Domains**

#### Foundations

- Basics of transplant immunology
- Alloimmune response & tolerance mechanisms

#### Pre-Transplant Immunology

- HLA matching
- CDC vs Flow crossmatch
- DSA interpretation
- Immunological risk stratification

#### Desensitization

- ABO-incompatible transplantation
- Positive crossmatch protocols
- Role of plasmapheresis, IVIG, rituximab, newer agents

#### Post-Transplant Immunology

- Immune monitoring strategies
- Protocol biopsies
- DSA surveillance

#### Rejection

- Acute cellular rejection
- Antibody-mediated rejection
- Chronic active AMR
- Histopathology–immunology correlation

#### Immunosuppression

- Induction strategies
- Maintenance therapy

- Drug monitoring & interactions
- Individualized immunosuppression

#### Special Situations

- Re-transplantation
- Highly sensitized recipients
- Pediatric immunology
- Pregnancy & malignancy considerations

### **Training Resources**

- Online lecture series
- Case libraries
- Recommended textbooks & consensus guidelines
- Access to ISOT webinars & expert panels

## **4. Exit Examination**

### **Structure**

#### Theory Examination

- Online MCQs based on ISOT Immunology syllabus

#### Clinical / Viva

- Case-based discussions
- Interpretation of:
  - DSA profiles
  - Crossmatch results
  - Immunosuppression plans

#### Logbook Assessment

- Mandatory submission of attested logbook
- Documentation of:
  - Immunological decisions
  - Rejection management
  - Academic participation

## **Examiner Selection**

ISOT members with:

- $\geq 5$  years transplant experience
- Demonstrated expertise in transplant immunology

## **Re-Attempts**

- Maximum three attempts permitted

# **5. Monitoring & Feedback**

## **Fellow Assessment**

- Periodic performance reviews

For any query, please contact on [dr.jdshrimali@gmail.com](mailto:dr.jdshrimali@gmail.com).

Thanks, and regards,

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