



INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE
EGYPTIAN
OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

In collaboration with:



MEACO
MIDDLE EAST AFRICA
COUNCIL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

The IOFF- Subspecialty Fellowship Program

Presented by,

Doaa Ashraf

FICO, FRCSEd



The IOFF- Subspecialty Fellowship Program



International Ophthalmological
Fellowship Foundation e.V.

Collaboration partner to the



Berthold Seitz ML, MD, FEBO
Director for IOFF-Subspecialty Fellowships
Chairman Department of Ophthalmology
Saarland University Medical Center
Homburg/Saar, Germany

Cordula Gabel-Obermaier
Executive for IOFF-Subspecialty Fellowships
Munich, Germany

What is The IOFF-Subspecialty Fellowship Program?

- It is a program that invites highly motivated young Ophthalmologists from low and middle resourced countries to apply for a three-months or one-year subspecialty fellowships.
- It is mainly classified as observerships, but with a possibility of surgical exposure some centers in India in Cataract Surgery, Glaucoma and Oculoplastic.
- Immediately after having completed the IOFF-Subspecialty Fellowship, they return to their home country, resume their position and take part in programs to preserve vision and prevent blindness.

Worth to mention!!


- No curriculum.
- No degree.
- No support for Refractive Surgery or Aesthetic Surgery.



What is the effects of the fellowships on the participants?

British Journal of
Ophthalmology

Twenty years of International Council of Ophthalmology fellowships: description of the programme and the impact on more than 1100 awardees

Emilio A Torres-Netto ,^{1,2,3,4} Cordula Gabel-Obermaier,⁵ Peter Gabel,⁶ Balder Gloor,⁷ Peter Wiedemann,^{8,9} Hugh Taylor,^{10,11} Clare Davey,^{12,13} Nicola Quilter,¹⁴ Berthold Seitz^{15,16}

Has the experience of the ICO Three Months or One Year Fellowships training helped you in your daily practice?

Yes	No
98%	2%

Did you learn techniques in diagnosis/treatment/surgery that were new to you?

Yes	No
92%	8%

Did you install regular teaching events in your department the way you have experienced them in the Host Institute?

Yes	No
85%	15%

Who are the eligible candidates?

- Hold nationality and are permanently based in a low resource country.
- Ideally, under 40 years of age at the time of submitting the application.
- Have completed their Residency Training.
- Have obtained their Specialist in Ophthalmology degree .

There is more!!


- Come with strong recommendation from previous and present chair.
- Ideally, hold public services/ teaching positions.
- Are committed to resume their position after the training to apply the newly acquired skills and knowledge.
- Female Ophthalmologists are strongly encouraged to apply!

But why should you apply?

- Professional exchange.
- Find answers to your recurring challenges in your daily practice in your subspecialty.
- Long term connection and ongoing support.
- Social and cultural exchange between host, team and guestdoctor/s.
- Making friends.
- Staying in a city abroad, enjoying a new culture.
- Support the international network in Ophthalmology.

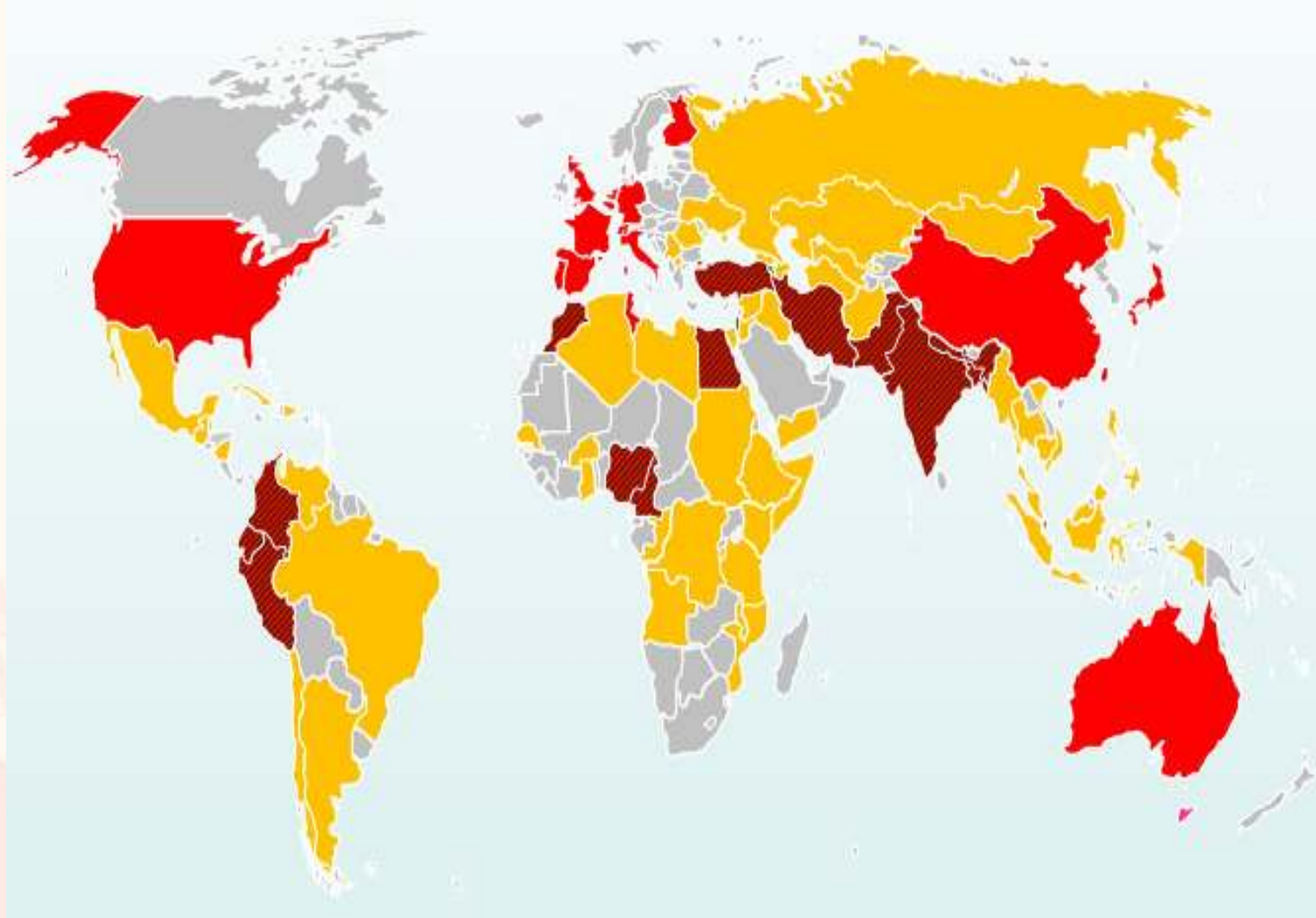


Dr. Shouaib Absulsalam (Nigeria),
Dr. Anca Pintelei (Romania),
Dr. Gilberto Moreno (Mexico)
- Fellows at LMU Munich



**Now let's mention
some statistics
related to the IOFF
program**

International awareness of IOFF-Fellowships



**330 awardees
comming from 68
home countries and 98
host centers in 28 host
countries !**

-  Host Country
-  Home Country
-  Host and Home Country

330 IOFF-Fellows from 2021 to 2024 come from 68 home countries

Afghanistan	2	Guatemala	1	Pakistan	11
Algier	2	Haiti	1	Palestine	3
Angola	1	Honduras	2	Philippines	6
Argentina	2	India	22	Romania	4
Armenia	4	Indonesia	15	Russian Federation	1
Azerbaijan	2	Iran	4	Senegal	1
Bangladesh	2	Iraq	1	Serbia	1
Brazil	3	Jordan	4	Sierra Leone	1
Bulgaria	1	Kazakhstan	4	Somalia	3
Burkina Faso	2	Kenya	2	South Sudan	1
Burundi	3	Lebanon	1	Sudan	11
Cambodia	1	Libya	2	Syria	2
Cameroon	2	Malawi	1	Tanzania	1
Chile	1	Malaysia	1	Thailand	6
Colombia	4	Marokko	1	Turkey	32
Cuba	2	Mexico	9	Uganda	3
Dominican Republic	1	Mocambique	1	Ukraine	8
DR Congo	6	Mongolia	9	Usbekistan	3
East Timor	1	Mozambique	2	Venezuela	1
Egypt	12	Myanmar	2	Vietnam	4
Ethiopia	16	Nepal	12	Yemen	17
Georgia	5	Nigeria	35	Zambia	1
Ghana	1	North Macedonia	1		



Chosen Subspecialties in 2021-2024

Cataract Surgery	61	Oculoplastic	35
Cornea and External Diseases	37	Ophthalmic Genetics	4
Glaucoma	37	Pediatric Ophthalmology	34
Low Vision and Rehabilitation	2	Retinoblastoma	4
Medical Retina	37	ROP and Pediatric Retina	7
Neuro-Ophthalmology	18	Uveitis	10
Ocular Oncology	13	Vitreoretina	31

330

AND INTERNATIONAL
OPHTHALMOLOGICAL FELLOWSHIP
FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS



Our sincere congratulations to those who have been awarded an IOFF-Subspecialty Fellowship! In 2021 there were 62 IOFF-Subspecialty Three-Months Fellows and 5 awardees of the IOFF-One Year Subspecialty Fellowship Program who will

I was one of them!

- My journey started after receiving and reading the acceptance email for ten times at least!
- After some series of unwanted events due to the COVID pandemic, I managed to travel to the UK in 2023.

Some highlighted moments!

- The first surprise on the plane is sitting beside 2 fellow doctors one of them is an ophthalmologist!



Then some small culture shocks!

- What is going where?
- And why all the people are driving on the wrong side??!



**Finally
reached
my
destination
!**



My fellowship was in pediatric ophthalmology!

Here is Prof Richard Bowman, my
host and the consultant of General
and Neuro-ophthalmology.

Also attended with Prof Rob
Henderson consultant Vitreoretinal /
Medical Retina and Genetic Eye
Diseases.



OR exposure!

- I was allowed to enter the OR and observe surgical team setups and interactions
- I can not emphasis the support and encouragment that Dr Bowman gave me during these times.





I met colleagues from all over the world!

- Spain, China, Turkey, name it !
- And of course , Egyptians!

Some of my firsts!

- First hiking trip!
- First coronation ceremony!
- First Ramadan and EID outside my hometown.



Motivated? You can apply!

1. Information on the program available on www.ioff.org.
2. Download the online application form with upload of requested documents, then submit for the eligibility determination. **Special attention: answers reg. motivation, expectations and impacts to gain.**
3. Contact with the preferred host first from the [IOFF Host Network](#).
4. Have a short interview with the host.
5. Host decides and returns duly signed host notice of acceptance form.
6. Processing of application file for expert's review and funding decision.

Next application deadlines: July 31, 2025, and January 31, 2026

EOS 2025

EGYPTIAN OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Want to be a host? Why not?

IOFF-Subspecialty Fellowships program for hosts

- Hosts only offer the subspecialties they wish, offer can be changed at any time.
- Host institute does not charge for tutorial and administration.
- Host decides which candidate to choose.
- Interacting with other cultures.
- Residents can train their teaching skills.

A warm THANK YOU goes to our sponsors!



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- Ophthalmology Foundation Exams

➔ www.ophthalmology foundation.org

EOS 2025

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Questions?



www.ioff.org



cgo@ioff.org

Thank you!

ioff



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