

## **International Visiting Scholarships for Indians--Policies**

**To attend the AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO and participate in a short-term observership in a US academic department of otolaryngology.**

**Deadline for receipt of applications (email only)—close of business, May 1.**

### Program Overview

With the mission of *Working for the Best Ear, Nose, and Throat Care*, the Academy and Foundation's international goal is to engage in high-quality interaction around the globe to ensure meaningful, diversified contributions to the specialty. This program is under the auspices of the AAO-HNSF International Steering Committee.

Launched in 2008, the intent of the International Visiting Scholar Program is to bring young academicians to the US from India (and other countries) to attend the AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO and take part in short-term observerships.

### Funding

The International Visiting Scholarships for Indians are currently funded through 1) the American Association of Otolaryngologists of Indian Heritage, and 2) individual gifts from donors such as a) Dr. and Mrs. Vijay Anand and b) Dr. and Mrs. Dinesh Mehta.

For example, for \$2,000, a scholarship for one year may be named for the donor, e.g., the Nikhil J. Bhatt International Visiting Scholar. For an endowment of \$50,000 or more, a scholarship may be named in perpetuity.

### Goals

- To train outstanding otolaryngologists working **full time** in junior faculty academic positions from India so they can return to India to teach colleagues and raise standards of patient care.
- To create relationships with sister institutions in India or the Association of Otolaryngologists of India (AOI) to maintain the links forged by the scholars' experiences.

### Annual Meeting Attendance

The purpose of the grant is to help pay for annual meeting registration, instruction course fees, and hotel expenses. The grant will not fully cover the entire expenses of the visit to USA. The International Visiting Scholar must provide additional funding to cover expenses. On filing the application, candidates may request an invitation letter to show the US visa office and for study leave permission.

At the Annual Meeting, the International Visiting Scholars will receive seating in the VIP section at the Opening Ceremony and be recognized by the President. At the International Reception, each scholar will receive a check for \$2,000 and a Scholarship Certificate. The Reception takes place on the Tuesday of the Annual Meeting at 8:00 pm in the headquarters hotel.

Also at the meeting, the Humanitarian Efforts Committee will recognize the International Visiting Scholars at the Humanitarian Forum, which takes place on the Sunday afternoon of Annual Meeting, 3:30 pm—5:30 pm, in the convention center.

The President of AAOIH may also graciously invite the International Visiting Scholars to the AAOIH Annual Meeting and Dinner held in conjunction with the AAO-HNSF annual meeting.

Each scholar will receive a one-year complimentary subscription to our scientific journal, *Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery*, starting with the January issue after the annual

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meeting. This subscription includes online access and print copies with any accompanying supplements. We ask for a reliable mailing address for the printed journal, such as a home address or private office, rather than a university or hospital address.

#### Observerships in the US

Note: Since the grant will not cover all expenses associated with an observership, the International Visiting Scholars must provide funding for these expenses. The recommended period for the observership is a minimum of two weeks. Observers should have a good working knowledge of English.

The observership must take place in a US academic department of otolaryngology or recognized cancer center. The candidate may request a certain department or may seek suggestions from the AAO-HNSF international committees or members of AAOIH.

The goal of the observership is to expand the International Visiting Scholar's knowledge and experience and improve the care available to their patients. In most otolaryngology departments, observers may attend conferences and lectures; observe in clinics, the Operating Room, and teaching rounds, in accordance with appropriate medical staff policy; and work with a mentor. For legal and insurance reasons, however, observers are not authorized to actively participate in the care of patients.

Members of the AAO-HNSF International Steering Committee and the Humanitarian Efforts and International Otolaryngology Committees and AAOIH may assist in locating appropriate observerships for International Visiting Scholars. Scholarship applications must include an invitation letter from the otolaryngology program where the observership will take place. Arrangements must be finalized before International Visiting Scholars arrive in the US.

#### Eligibility

The International Visiting Scholarships for Indians are available for outstanding otolaryngologists who are Indian citizens domiciled in India, who are in junior full-time or part-time faculty academic positions, who have completed otolaryngology training, and are under 40 years of age as of October 1 of the scholarship year.

(Note: the IVS program differs from the International Travel Grants for international scholars studying in US otolaryngology programs in unpaid fellowships, to enable them to attend our annual meetings. For International Travel Grants, there is no geographic restriction other than US and Canadian citizens are not eligible.)

IVS candidates from India must submit in electronic format (PDF or other email attachment) in this order:

1. International Visiting Scholarship from India application form
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV) (three pages or less)
3. Personal statement describing reasons for wishing to become an International Visiting Scholar and for how the experience will help the physician and his or her patients in their own country.
4. Letter of support from their Department Head and/or Dean of the Medical College or Director of the Medical Center.

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5. Invitation letter from the US otolaryngology teaching program where the scholar will undergo observership.
6. The AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting verification form signed by the department head stating that you are a fellow in training (if applicable.)
7. Verification from the President of Association of Otolaryngologists of India (AOI) that the applicant is a bona fide AOI member in good standing.
8. Portrait photo in color, .jpg high resolution 300 DPI.

The Association of Otolaryngologists of India (AOI) and non-profit organizations in India known to the International Steering Committee and/or the International Otolaryngology Committee may recommend candidates.

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- Notifications will be sent mid-June.

### Ineligibility

International Visiting Scholarships are NOT available to:

- Citizens of the U.S.A. or citizens of any country except India.
- Indian citizens who are not domiciled in India.
- Foreign nationals who have previously attended an AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO.
- Individuals who are not trained otolaryngologists.
- Individuals in private practice or not in a **full-time** academic position.
- Individuals over 40 years of age as of October 1 of the scholarship year.

### Assessment

On returning home, International Visiting Scholars must submit a report on their experience, which may be published in the *Bulletin* or other Academy publications. We ask scholars to describe their experiences in the US, objectives they achieved during their stay, and how the scholarship affected their career goals. In addition, we invite them to critique the International Visiting Scholars program and offer suggestions for modification and improvement.

The International Visiting Scholars for India program is made possible by the contributions of individuals to the Millennium Society or the Humanitarian Restricted Fund. If you wish to support the International Visiting Scholars for India program, please contact [international@entnet.org](mailto:international@entnet.org) or send a tax-deductible check to the AAO-HNSF, 1650 Diagonal Road, Alexandria, VA 22314-2857, USA.

Thank you for your generous support of this unique program.