



# CHILDREN'S HEARTLINK FELLOWSHIP IN PEDIATRIC CARDIAC SCIENCES

**Children's HeartLink**

**Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences**

**Institut Jantung Negara**



Children's HeartLink, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Institute Jantung Negara are pleased to announce the fellowship training programs in pediatric cardiac sciences in the following subspecialties:

- **Pediatric Cardiology**  
Directors: R. Krishna Kumar, MD and Hasri Samion, MD
- **Pediatric Cardiac Surgery**  
Directors: Sivakumar Sivalingam, MD and Brijesh P. Kotayil, MD
- **Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care**  
Directors: Rakhi Balachandran, MD and Khairul Faizah, MD

### **INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD**

The fellowship program will be advised by an international advisory board comprised of distinguished experts in the field from leading programs in North America, Europe, Australia and LMICs. They will review and make suggestions on the curriculum content, guide research proposals and monitor progress of candidates.

A major obstacle to delivering care for children with heart disease in low- and middle-income countries is the deficit of trained personnel. While a beginning has been made in selected institutions in a few countries to establish training programs in some of the disciplines, those are unlikely to address the overall need, with the situation being particularly worrisome for pediatric cardiac surgery.

The fellowship will provide intensive experience in the fellows' chosen subspecialty. The purpose of this fellowship program is to train individuals who are willing to dedicate to a career in pediatric cardiac sciences to address the gap in pediatric cardiac care providers in low- and middle-income countries.



# FELLOWSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS SUMMARY

## TEACHING INSTITUTIONS

The fellowship programs will be offered at Children's HeartLink Centers of Excellence Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences in Kochi, India and Institut Jantung Negara in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as a joint training program, with one trainee in each specialty spending a year at each institution.

## DURATION

A two-year structured fellowship program for each of the three subspecialties.

## CURRICULUM

Detailed course curricula for the individual specialties can be provided upon request. These list the activities, practical exposure and theory requirements. While the fellowship will be predominantly clinical, the curriculum will include quality improvement and research activities, and each candidate will be expected to participate in one study during the training period with the goal of submission and acceptance in a peer-reviewed journal.

The curriculum is assessed and reviewed on an annual basis by program directors and the Children's HeartLink advisory committee. Those who are likely to be appointed to a designated institution or those who have already been appointed will be given some preference.



## ELIGIBILITY

This training is designed for trainees from low- and middle-income countries who have some basic exposure in their respective specialty after completing their training in their core area. The purpose is to provide them with an advanced level of exposure to give them the confidence of working independently.

### ● PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY

Postgraduate degree in general pediatrics; basic training in pediatric cardiology

### ● PEDIATRIC CARDIAC SURGERY

Masters or doctoral degree in cardiac surgery

### ● PEDIATRIC CARDIAC INTENSIVE CARE

Postgraduate degree in anesthesiology or general pediatrics with some experience in intensive care

## SALARY AND BENEFITS

Both institutions hosting the fellows will provide a stipend sufficient to cover housing and basic living expenses. Additional benefits will be according to the existing benefits policies at each institution for postgraduate fellows.

## APPLICATION

All applicants are required to submit a completed application form and two or more reference letters from program directors. A selection committee including program directors, Children's HeartLink representatives and selected members of the advisory committee will review applications and make recommendations. The selection will be made based strictly on merit and aptitude; an important additional consideration will be the long-term career plans in their respective regions, as the primary purpose of this fellowship program is to build capacity for comprehensive care for children with heart disease in underserved regions of the world. After applicants have been informed about selection they will need to initiate the process of completing each country's formalities for medical practice in each country.

