



Singapore National Eye Centre

11 Third Hospital Avenue Singapore 168751
Tel: (65) 6227 7255 Fax: (65) 6227 7290
www.snec.com.sg
Reg No 198900840W

SNEC ADVANCED SURGICAL TRAINING PROGRAMME - CORNEAL ROTATION

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of this Corneal Rotation Training Program is to provide a training standard for registrars which ensures adequate, advanced trainee level medical and surgical training in the corneal, refractive surgery and contact lens subspecialties.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

1. The duration of attachment is 6 months. Three months will be spent in a general corneal rotation, with clinics at the General Corneal Clinic (under supervision of A/Prof Tan), while the remaining 3 months will be divided between Corneal Refractive (Dr Chan WK) and Contact Lens Clinics (Dr Lim Li). Throughout the rotation, the corneal fellow and other part-time corneal consultants will provide further training. The trainee should spend 50% of his/her time (5 sessions) in the clinical service of the subspecialty. In addition, one extra research session should be made available to allow for research time during the rotation.
2. Clinical Teaching – all subspecialty work will be fully supervised at all times by a corneal consultant or the corneal fellow.
3. Clinical Service Activities – subspecialty clinics, excimer and OT sessions - the trainee will attend all clinical service activities, under the supervision of the allocated corneal consultant. In addition, trainees will follow-up on all corneal cases, admitted to the ward, assist the corneal consultant on ward rounds, and assist in presentation of these cases at the Grand Ward Round or CME sessions.
4. Corneal Teaching – the trainee is to assist the corneal fellow in coordination and participation in the monthly corneal specialist conference.
5. Participation in Division Corneal Graft QA and Eye Bank harvesting programmes – the trainee shall assist the corneal fellow in weekly completion of Corneal Graft QA forms, and also assist in the Eye Bank harvesting programmes.

Training Programme

First 3 months

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
a.m. session		Refractive Surgery Clinic		Corneal OT	Corneal Research
p.m. session		Corneal Clinic		Corneal Clinic	

Last 3 months

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
a.m. session		Excimer Laser OT		Corneal Research	Corneal OT
p.m. session		Corneal Clinic		Contact Lens Clinic	

SUBJECT AREAS

The trainee will receive diagnostic and therapeutic medical and surgical training in the following clinical subjects:

Medical Cornea Training:

1. General Cornea:
 - a. assessment techniques of corneal status – ocular surface, corneal endothelium, corneal topography
 - b. medical cornea and external eye disease
 - c. contact lens disease – diagnosis and management
2. Contact Lens Fitting:
 - a. assessment of contact lens fit
 - b. basic contact lens fitting – soft lenses
 - c. basic contact lens fitting – rigid gas permeable lenses
 - d. subspecialty contact lens fitting – keratoconus, aphakia, paediatric aphakia, post-PK or refractive surgery

Surgical Cornea Training:

1. Corneal Surgery:

The trainee will perform and be trained to be proficient in the following procedures:

	<u>Assist no. of cases</u>	<u>Perform no. of cases</u>
a. Corneal Biopsy	1	1
b. Corneal Glueing	1	1
c. Pterygium Excision with Conjunctival Autografting	5	5
e. Eye Harvesting Procedures – whole eye, in-situ corneal removal	2	2

The trainee will assist and perform stages of the following procedures:

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|----|--|---------|------------|
| a. | Penetrating Keratoplasty | approx. | (10) cases |
| b. | Lamellar Keratoplasty | | (2) |
| c. | Scleral Patch Grafting | | (2) |
| d. | Limbal Autograft/Allograft Transplantation | | (1) |
| e. | Refractive Surgery (Excimer and incisional keratotomy) | | (10) |

NB: Although the trainee will have knowledge of indications for and techniques of these procedures, training acquired during the 6 month rotation will not be adequate to attain full surgical proficiency. In addition, all figures will be subject to case variation.

2. Refractive Surgery
 - a. Pre and post operative counselling of refractive surgery candidates.
 - b. Pre-operative assessment of refractive surgery candidates, inclusive of refraction techniques, interpretation of corneal topographic maps and keratometry.
 - c. Postoperative management of refractive surgical cases.
 - d. Management of problems and complications encountered in refractive surgical cases.
3. Research & Publications
 - a. The trainee will be encouraged to complete and submit for publication at least one case report in an ophthalmic journal during his/her 6 month attachment. The case report may be in any of the sub-disciplines of the Cornea Division.
 - b. Opportunities will also be provided for interested trainees to participate in short and long term research projects of the Cornea Division.

DOCUMENTATION AND VERIFICATION

1. The trainee will keep a log book of all laser, contact lens and surgical procedures performed. This will be reviewed at the end of the posting.
2. All non-clinical activities, e.g. case presentations, conferences, eye bank programmes, performed during the rotation should be recorded.
3. The trainee will be assessed by the 3 corneal consultants in individual reports.

PROGRAMME SUPERVISORS

Head, Corneal Service
Head, Refractive Surgery Service
Consultant-in-charge, Contact Lens