Transplant Fellow in the Department of Abdominal Transplant Surgery and Transplant Coordination, University Hospitals Leuven – University of Leuven (KU Leuven), Belgium

Profile of the fellow
- Board certified surgeon (m/f),
- Surgical diploma that is recognized in Belgium
- PhD (Optional)
- Dutch speaking or willing to learn Dutch

Aims of the Fellowship
Progressive training in all surgical and medical aspects of Abdominal Transplantation and familiarization with the coordination of the entire transplant process from procurement to transplantation.

At the end of the 2-year fellowship (starting August), the fellow will have been trained in:
- Multi-organ procurement; donation after brain death (DBD) and circulatory death (DCD)
- Back-table work of kidneys and livers (and exposure to pancreas and intestine)
- Kidney and liver transplantation (and exposure to pancreas and intestinal transplantation)
- Elective surgery in transplant candidates and transplant recipients
- Evaluation of
  o Deceased donors
  o Deceased donor offers
  o Living kidney donors
  o Transplant candidates
- Management of
  o Transplant candidates on the waiting list
  o Transplant recipients in the peritransplant period and during follow-up

By the end of this fellowship, the fellow is expected to take the procurement and kidney transplant modules of the UEMS. At a later stage the pancreas and liver module may follow.
Job content

1. General Functioning of the Department
   - Four Staff supervisors (Jacques Pirenne, Diethard Monbaliu, Ina Jochmans, Mauricio Sainz)
   - One Transplant fellow in the Department for a period of 2 years
   - One Transplant Surgical Assistant (senior surgical trainee) assigned to the Department for a 3-month period.
   - An Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Surgical Assistant (senior surgical trainee), assigned to the ICU Department for a 3-month period, may join the transplant team in case of work overload (simultaneous transplant/procurements etc.). In absence of the Transplant Surgical Assistant (recuperation, congress, sick leave, holiday), he/she takes over the clinical duties of the Transplant Surgical Assistant.
   - The Department usually has one or two interns (last year medical students).
   - The Department has junior and/or senior PhD fellows who—in addition to their research activities—participate to procurement (on-call rota) and/or transplant activities and educational meetings.
   - Two elective surgery days per week (Tuesday for large electives including live donor transplant; Friday for small electives in out-patient setting).
   - Three out-patient clinics per week (Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday; 8:30-12:30).
   - 24/24, 7/7 continuity service for deceased procurement and abdominal transplant activity in one urgency/transplant OR; a second one will open in November 2015.

2. Responsibilities of the fellow
   - Reporting to the on-call Supervisor(s)
   - Daily management of transplant recipients
   - Conducting outpatient clinics and following up the labs and tailoring treatment
   - Take part in the on-call and elective surgical program
   - Organization of educational meetings (see below)
   - Supervision of the Surgical Assistants and interns
   - Clinical Research
   - Administrative responsibilities
   - All aforementioned activities are supervised by supervisors
3. **Patient Care in the Transplant Unit**
   - Daily morning rounds with TRA or ICU Surgical Assistant and interns (662 with head or assistant-head nurse; plus ICU & extramuros) at ~7:30; before out-patient clinics and/or surgery
   - All aspects of patient care (surgical and medical) for Liver, Intestinal, and Multivisceral transplant recipients. Surgical aspects for kidney transplant recipients.
   - Afternoon rounds (between 13-17) with Supervisors on call. Patient visit and/or review of labs; at the discretion of the Supervisors.
   - Friday afternoon transmission of a “patient update” for the weekend to Surgical Assistant on call and to all Supervisors (transplantatiechirurgie@uzleuven.be)

4. **Out-patient Clinic**
   Participation to 2 (out of 3) out-patient clinics per week under Staff supervision on Monday (liver/intestine clinic) and Thursday (kidney/pancreas and living donor clinic) together with the Surgical Assistant (TRA assistant or ICU assistant if TRA not available).
   The out-patient clinic of Wednesday (liver/intestine clinic) is covered by the Surgical Assistant (TRA assistant or ICU assistant if TRA not available) and Junior PhD fellow (unless workoverload) to give free time to the Transplant Fellow for scientific / educational activities.

5. **Operating Room Activities**
   - Elective surgery (living kidney donors, PD catheters, hernias, transplantectomies, anti-reflux procedures, removal of Hickmann catheters, ...) on Tuesday and Friday
   - Stepwise participation/involvement in deceased organ procurement and transplantation according to following scheme:
     - Procurement: from assistance to guidance (by experienced procuring surgeons) to independent operator status (without supervision); DBD first, DCD next
     - Back-table work: from assistance to independent performance; kidney first, livers next
     - Kidney transplantation: from assistance to performance of parts of the procedure to complete procedure, under Staff supervision
     - Liver transplantation: from assistance to performance of parts of the procedure under Staff supervision

6. **On-call**
   - Procurement on-call (maximal frequency at the start of the fellowship until independency)
- Transplant on-call with the supervisor/staff on-call (High frequency recommended to more rapidly acquire necessary skills; can be combined with procurement on-call; to be discussed with the fellow in the course of the fellowship)

7. **Organization of education meetings**
- Morbidity, Mortality and Successes (MM’s) conferences
- Journal club
- The fellow may be supported by the junior and/or senior PhD fellows in these meetings

8. **Surgical and Medical Teaching**
- Surgical Assistants
- Interns
- Junior PhD Fellow
- Once independent, teaching of procurement techniques to new members of the procurement team

9. **Participation to Clinical Meetings and Transplant congresses**
- Monday 12:30-14:00 - Multidisciplinary Liver transplant meeting (mandatory)
- Wednesday 12:00-13:00 - Liver biopsy meeting (recommended)
- Wednesday 13:00-14:00 - Liver Meeting (recommended)
- Friday 14:00-15:00 - Leading of the multidisciplinary transplant meeting with allied health professionals on the ward (mandatory)
- Friday: 13:00-14:00 - Transplant conferences of the Abdominal Transplant Surgery department (mandatory)
- Friday: 11:30 - Kidney biopsy meeting (recommended)
- Participation to national and international Transplant congresses {BTS, ESOT, ATC, ESOT Transplant Fellow workshop etc...}. The costs for travel and stay are covered in case of i) abstract acceptance or ii) ad hoc sponsoring by firms and/or department grants/funds} (recommended)

10. **Research**
- Clinical research in free time and Wednesday mornings. Topics (case reports, patient cohorts, etc..) to be discussed with Staff
- Encouraged to submit work to national and international transplant congresses and peer reviewed journals
11. Administrative responsibilities

- Organization of the daily workings of the Department at the level of Surgical Assistants, interns, and fellows
- Checking that absences (holidays, sick leave, recuperation, ...) of aforementioned MD’s do not overlap and that the continuation of the clinic and operating rooms are insured
- Organization of the procurement on-call rota
- Supervision of the Surgical Assistant rota (organized by the junior PhD fellow)
- Update/control of follow up patient labs clinical data (*Opvolgnota*) in electronic patient files (KWS)
- Checking and amending discharge letters. For each patient hospitalization, the transplant fellow acts as supervisor and first reader in addition to the Staff.
- Plan elective surgeries in cooperation with the Surgical Assistant and secretaries.