

# ASG Superspeciality Eye Hospital Varanasi

A unit of ASG Eye Hospitals

PROGRAMME BROCHURE • 2026

## Short-Term International Fellowship in Cataract & Refractive Surgery

*Twelve weeks of structured, supervised surgical training*

**3 months**

Full-time

**Nil**

Course fee

**Rs 50,000**

Stipend / month

**NMC**

Section 34

## FOREWORD

# A Word from the Founder



## Dr Arun Singhvi

MBBS, MD (AIIMS New Delhi)

Founder, CEO and Managing Director

ASG Eye Hospitals

When the first ASG Eye Hospital opened in Jodhpur in December 2005, it began with one conviction: that excellent eye care should not depend on where a patient happens to live. Two decades on, that conviction has carried ASG across India, and it has taught us something we did not fully appreciate at the start. A hospital network can grow only as fast as the surgeons it trains.

That is why teaching sits at the centre of what we do. Every ASG centre treats patients, and several also teach. ASG Superspeciality Eye Hospital, Varanasi is one of them, and it is the centre we have entrusted with the guidance of our international fellows.

The team in Varanasi, led by Dr Pratyush Ranjan, has built a culture in which high surgical volume and careful teaching go together: every step explained, every case logged, and every fellow held to the standard the patient deserves.

To the ophthalmologist reading this from another country: you will train under supervision, within the permission granted by India's National Medical Commission, in a city where medicine is practised amid one of the oldest living traditions of learning in the world. We hope you leave with steadier hands, sharper judgement and friendships that last, and that the patients you serve at home feel the benefit of your time in Kashi.

You are most welcome at ASG.

**Dr Arun Singhvi**

## FOREWORD

# From the Academic Cell



## Dr Ganesh Pillay

**MBBS, MD (Ophthalmology, AIIMS New Delhi)**

Academic Director, ASG Academic Cell

Medical Director, ASG Eye Hospital, Bhopal

Regional Chief Operating Officer (Madhya Pradesh)

The ASG Academic Cell exists to answer one question about every fellow who trains with us: will this surgeon leave better than they arrived, and can we show it?

We answer it with structure. Long-term fellows enter through a national examination and are placed strictly by merit. Every fellowship follows a defined curriculum, every case is logged and reviewed, and every fellow faces an exit assessment before a certificate is issued. The same discipline governs our short-term international programme: clear objectives, graded supervision and honest evaluation, all within the permission granted by India's National Medical Commission.

Structure alone does not make a surgeon, though. Mentors do. Our task is to place each fellow with a teacher who will give them time, attention and candour, and to give that teacher the systems to do it well. Across our centres, it is this partnership between system and mentor that fellows remember. In Varanasi it now extends to our international fellows, who train there under the mentorship of Dr Pratyush Ranjan.

To every ophthalmologist considering this programme: expect to be welcomed, expect to be stretched, and expect to be assessed fairly. We measure our success by what you do after you leave, in your own theatre, for your own patients.

We look forward to training with you.

**Dr Ganesh Pillay**

FROM THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

## Why I Teach



### Dr Pratyush Ranjan

**MBBS, DO MS, DNB, MAMS, AMPH**

Consultant, Cataract, Refractive and Glaucoma  
Medical Director, ASG Superspeciality Eye Hospital, Varanasi  
Regional Chief Operating Officer, Uttar Pradesh

Every surgeon remembers the first phaco and the first LASIK: the held breath, the hands that will not quite keep still, and the quiet that follows when the lens is safely in the bag. That happiness does not fade, and it does not repeat. A surgeon gets it once.

A teacher gets it again, and again. On a single morning at my microscope in Varanasi there may be a fellow completing her first full phacoemulsification, and beside her a consultant who already operates independently at home, attempting a first toric implantation or a first LASIK. Standing behind each of them, I am handed back a feeling I thought I had spent years ago. Second-hand, and somehow not diminished.

There is a slower joy too. The surgeon who arrives hesitant, who apologises for asking questions and seeks permission before touching the joystick, and who a few months later walks into the theatre and simply begins. Watching timidity turn into quiet authority is the part of this work I would not trade for any personal outcome.

This fellowship is built to create those moments safely: under supervision, one graded step at a time, with every case logged and every doubt welcomed. Whether you come at the start of your surgical life or as an experienced surgeon adding new skills, you will be taught as though your first case matters, because to me it does.

When fellows thank me, I tell them the truth. I do this for my own happiness, and their training is its by-product. That is not modesty. If I am thanked for something I would gladly pay to do, the accounting is wrong somewhere.

आत्मौपम्येन सर्वत्र समं पश्यति योऽर्जुन।  
सुखं वा यदि वा दुःखं स योगी परमो मतः॥

*One who sees all beings as himself, in joy and in sorrow, is held to be the highest  
yogi.*

Bhagavad Gita 6.32

The Gita does not ask the yogi to stand apart from what others feel. It asks him to stop drawing a line between their joy and his own. That is the spirit in which we will receive you in Kashi.

One day, someone's hands will shake in front of you, and you will know exactly what to say.

**Dr Pratyush Ranjan**

## THE INSTITUTION

# ASG Eye Hospitals

ASG Eye Hospitals was founded in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, in December 2005 by Dr Arun Singhvi, an alumnus of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. Its founding aim was to take advanced, affordable eye care to people who otherwise had to travel long distances for it, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. From a single centre, ASG has grown into one of India's leading chains of super speciality eye hospitals, operated by ASG Hospital Private Limited.

|                        |                      |                            |                                 |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>180+</b><br>centres | <b>95+</b><br>cities | <b>700+</b><br>specialists | <b>3 crore+</b><br>eyes treated |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|

Group figures as published by ASG Eye Hospitals.

- **Every subspecialty under one roof:** cataract, LASIK and refractive surgery (including ICL and PRK), retina, glaucoma, cornea, paediatric ophthalmology and squint, neuro-ophthalmology and oculoplasty.
- **Emergency and eye banking:** 24-hour emergency services for eye trauma, and eye banking facilities including the ASG Eye Bank.
- **Beyond India:** centres in Kampala, Uganda, and Kathmandu, Nepal.
- **Commitment to training:** structured long-term fellowships across the network, with entry by a national entrance examination and seats allotted on merit.
- **Research governance:** the ASG Academic Cell supports research through an ethics committee approved by the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, to consider research proposals involving human participants.
- **Academic support:** ASG sponsors consultants and fellows to attend conferences, and runs an International Masterclass that brings experienced ophthalmologists from around the world together with young surgeons.

**Uttar Pradesh Zone.** ASG's Uttar Pradesh zone covers 19 centres across 13 cities, including three in Varanasi.

#### THE TRAINING CENTRE

## ASG Superspeciality Eye Hospital, Varanasi

The fellowship is based entirely at ASG Superspeciality Eye Hospital on the Rathyatra-Mahmoorganj Road in Varanasi, the flagship of ASG's three centres in the city. It offers comprehensive, super speciality eye care for every age group and receives patients from across Varanasi and the surrounding region, giving fellows a large and varied caseload throughout the year.

ASG's international fellowship is conducted only at Varanasi, under the personal mentorship of Dr Pratyush Ranjan. More than 40 cataract, refractive and glaucoma surgeons from India and abroad have trained here.

### Clinical Services

- Cataract surgery: phacoemulsification and MSICS, with monofocal, toric and premium IOLs
- LASIK, PRK and ICL refractive surgery
- Glaucoma: medical, laser and surgical care
- Medical and surgical retina at the Retina Institute of Kashi, the hospital's vitreoretina department
- Cornea services, including collagen cross-linking for keratoconus
- Paediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, with a dedicated children's play area, a myopia clinic and dichoptic therapy (Bynocs)
- Oculoplasty and neuro-ophthalmology

## Surgical and Diagnostic Infrastructure

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Operation theatre</b> | Phacoemulsification systems (Alcon and Oertli); Carl Zeiss operating microscopes with video recording; digital visualisation and high-speed vitrectomy platforms, including the Alcon Constellation |
| <b>Refractive suite</b>  | Alcon WaveLight Allegretto Eye-Q 500 Hz excimer laser with topography analyser; Carl Zeiss corneal topography; pachymetry                                                                           |
| <b>Diagnostics</b>       | Optical biometry and A-scan, B-scan, OCT, fundus photography, Humphrey visual fields with GPA, gonioscopy, synoptophore, autorefraction and automated phoropter, NCT and applanation tonometry      |
| <b>Lasers</b>            | Nd:YAG and frequency-doubled retinal lasers (Carl Zeiss); corneal collagen cross-linking (C3R)                                                                                                      |
| <b>Teaching</b>          | Seminar facilities for case presentations and journal clubs; recorded surgical videos; digital records and fellowship log book                                                                      |

**Address:** Ground Floor, Corporate Plaza, Rathyatra-Mahmoorganj Road, Gopal Vihar Colony, Mahmoorganj, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh 221010, India. **Appointments:** 1800-1211-804

## HERITAGE

## Kashi: The Birthplace of Cataract Surgery

Long before the operating microscope, cataract surgery was born in Kashi. According to tradition, it was here, some three thousand years ago, that the surgeon Sushruta learnt the art of healing from his teacher Divodasa Dhanvantari, King of Kashi, and set down the teaching that became the Sushruta Samhita, one of the founding texts of surgery in human history.

In it, Sushruta gave the world its earliest detailed description of cataract surgery. For Linganasha, the disease that clouds the lens and takes away sight, he described couching. With the patient seated and the eye steadied, a fine, barley-tipped needle, the jabamukhi shalaka, was passed through the side of the eye, and the clouded lens was pushed out of the line of sight so that light could reach the retina once again. He laid down how to prepare the patient, where to enter the eye, how to recognise success and how to care for the eye afterwards.

His range was astonishing. He described 76 diseases of the eye, 51 of them treated by surgery, and more than a hundred surgical instruments. He was a teacher as much as a surgeon, and insisted that students practise on fruits, gourds and models before they operated on a patient: simulation training, three millennia before the word existed.

From Kashi, his knowledge travelled the world. The Sushruta Samhita was translated into Arabic in Baghdad in the eighth century, and couching spread across Asia, the Middle East and Europe, where surgeons practised it for centuries.

*When a fellow performs a first capsulorhexis in Varanasi today, the work continues in the city where it began.*

## OUR FELLOWS

# A Centre that Trains Surgeons

Alongside the short-term international programme, the Varanasi centre trains long-term fellows in cataract and refractive surgery and in vitreoretinal surgery. At the ASG-ONE Fellowship Convocation 2026 in New Delhi, seven fellows from across the ASG network graduated, and three of them had trained in Varanasi.



Fellows and faculty at the ASG-ONE Fellowship Convocation 2026, New Delhi



In the operation theatre at Varanasi



Beyond the theatre: fellows and faculty in Kashi

## Convocation 2026: the Varanasi Honours

|                            |                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dr Mahantesh Mantur</b> | Phacoemulsification and refractive surgery. Prolific Surgeon Award; member of the winning quiz team.                            |
| <b>Dr Priyanka Chanana</b> | Vitreoretinal surgery, Retina Institute of Kashi. Academic Excellence Award 2026 for the highest marks in the exit examination. |
| <b>Dr Archana Yadav</b>    | Vitreo Retina Surgical Scholar programme, Retina Institute of Kashi.                                                            |
| <b>Dr Vineela Mamidi</b>   | Second-year fellow in cataract and refractive surgery; member of the winning quiz team.                                         |

### A TEACHING CENTRE

## A Centre Built for Teaching

ASG selects its long-term fellows through a national entrance examination, with a theory paper and viva, and allots seats strictly by merit rank at counselling. Varanasi is one of the centres that trains them, within the same academic system as colleagues across the network.

### Chosen by applicants

Candidates from the national entrance choose Varanasi for cataract, refractive and vitreoretinal training.

### Graded and supervised

Each fellow moves from observation to supervised surgery one step at a time, with every case logged.

### Audit on video

Recorded surgical videos are reviewed with the mentor so that each step can be refined.

### One academic system

Varanasi teaches within ASG's national academic framework, alongside mentors across the network.

The same teaching culture shapes the international fellowship: log-book discipline, surgical audit on recorded video, and a mentor who stands at the microscope with you.

## THE PROGRAMME

# About the Fellowship

The Short-Term International Fellowship in Cataract & Refractive Surgery is a three-month, full-time clinical training programme at ASG Superspeciality Eye Hospital, Varanasi. It is designed for qualified ophthalmologists from outside India who wish to build graded, hands-on competence in modern cataract surgery, covering phacoemulsification and manual small incision cataract surgery (MSICS), together with biometry, IOL planning and the evaluation of refractive surgery candidates.

All clinical and surgical work by the fellow is carried out only under supervision, strictly within the terms of the Temporary Permission granted by the National Medical Commission (NMC), India, under Section 34 of the NMC Act, 2019, and only at the sponsoring institute. Every international fellow trains under the direct, personal mentorship of Dr Pratyush Ranjan.

## Programme at a Glance

|                   |                                                                                                  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Programme</b>  | Short-Term International Fellowship in Cataract & Refractive Surgery                             |
| <b>Duration</b>   | Three months (12 weeks), full-time; dates match the NMC Temporary Permission                     |
| <b>Venue</b>      | ASG Superspeciality Eye Hospital, Varanasi (the only ASG centre offering this fellowship)        |
| <b>Mentor</b>     | Dr Pratyush Ranjan, Programme Director and sole mentor for the international fellowship          |
| <b>Mode</b>       | Supervised clinical and surgical training: OPD, operation theatre, wet lab and academic sessions |
| <b>Course fee</b> | Nil                                                                                              |
| <b>Stipend</b>    | Rs 50,000 (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) per month                                                 |

|                         |                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Accommodation</b>    | Arranged by the fellow; hospital guest house on request, with Rs 20,000 per month deducted from the stipend |
| <b>Working hours</b>    | 10:00 am to 7:00 pm with a lunch break; one weekly off; one casual leave per month                          |
| <b>Regulatory basis</b> | NMC Temporary Permission u/s 34, NMC Act, 2019 (Category D); applied for online by the fellow               |
| <b>Certification</b>    | Fellowship completion certificate issued by the institute on satisfactory completion                        |

## Learning Objectives

- Perform complete pre-operative cataract evaluation, optical biometry and IOL power calculation, including toric and premium IOL planning.
- Acquire graded competence in each step of phacoemulsification and MSICS, from observation to supervised performance.
- Recognise and manage intraoperative and postoperative complications, and deliver structured postoperative care.
- Evaluate and plan refractive surgery candidates using corneal topography and tomography.
- Maintain an audited surgical log book and present cases in an academic setting.

## WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

# Week-wise Curriculum

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Weeks 1 and 2</b>   | Orientation; hospital protocols and documentation; comprehensive workup: refraction, AR, NCT, OCT, fundus photography, FFA, HVF; biometry and IOL power calculation; wet-lab familiarisation. |
| <b>Weeks 3 and 4</b>   | Cataract evaluation and case selection; anaesthesia techniques; supervised steps: incisions, capsulorhexis, hydroprocedures; MSICS principles including R-MSICS demonstrations.               |
| <b>Weeks 5 and 6</b>   | Phacoemulsification: machine dynamics and fluidics; nucleus management including the Cartwheel Chop; supervised performance of graded steps.                                                  |
| <b>Weeks 7 and 8</b>   | IOL implantation including toric and multifocal planning; management of intraoperative and postoperative complications; postoperative care.                                                   |
| <b>Weeks 9 and 10</b>  | Refractive module: patient selection, topography and tomography, excimer laser workflow observation and planning; premium IOL counselling.                                                    |
| <b>Weeks 11 and 12</b> | Consolidation: supervised surgery as per NMC terms; complication management; audit of logged cases; case presentation; exit assessment.                                                       |

## Clinical and Academic Components

- **Outpatient department:** supervised work-up including refraction; diagnostic equipment (AR, NCT, OCT, fundus photography, FFA, HVF, A-scan and B-scan); minor procedures such as syringing and posterior sub-Tenon injection; patient counselling.
- **Operation theatre:** observation, assisting and graded supervised surgery, strictly as permitted under the NMC Temporary Permission.
- **Academics:** weekly case presentations, patient rounds and journal clubs.

- **Research:** fellows are encouraged to undertake, present or publish original work.

## Assessment and Certification

- Every OPD patient, procedure and OT note is recorded in the log book, countersigned by the mentor.
- Continuous formative assessment, followed by an exit review of the log book and competencies.
- A fellowship completion certificate is issued on satisfactory completion.

**Please note:** this is an institutional training programme. It does not confer any degree or any qualification recognised by the NMC or the National Board of Examinations, and it does not entitle the fellow to independent practice in India.

### FACULTY

## Programme Director and Mentor



### Dr Pratyush Ranjan

**MBBS, DO MS, DNB, MAMS, AMPH**

Consultant, Cataract, Refractive and Glaucoma  
Medical Director, ASG Superspeciality Eye Hospital, Varanasi  
Regional Chief Operating Officer, Uttar Pradesh

## Training

- Residency in ophthalmology at Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi; further training at AIIMS New Delhi, Sitapur Eye Hospital and Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne (UK).
- Advanced Management Programme in Healthcare (AMPH), Indian School of Business.
- Elected Member of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (MAMS), and a member of the All India Ophthalmological Society task force that framed national guidelines for small incision cataract surgery.

## Clinical work

Over the years he has operated on more than 65,000 cataract cases, with more than 3,500 refractive, 3,000 glaucoma and 2,000 oculoplasty procedures, and more than 3,000 retinal lasers and intravitreal injections. Much of his surgical grounding came early, at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Eye Hospital, where he performed more than 15,000 surgeries a year. His current work covers phacoemulsification and MSICS, premium and presbyopia-correcting IOLs, Contoura Vision, LASIK and PRK, ICL, and glaucoma care.

## Contributions to technique

- The Ranjan MSICS Marker, manufactured by Epsilon, USA, and described in the Indian Journal of Ophthalmology.
- The Cartwheel Chop, a nucleus division technique for dense cataracts, which received the Timeless Tip Award of Cataract & Refractive Surgery Today (CRST), USA, in 2022.
- The Topical Hepta Procedure, included in the Eyetube surgical teaching library, USA.
- R-MSICS, a dye-free, lower-cost manual small incision technique, and the Infinity Incision and CARTER Chopper.

*These ideas grew out of everyday cases and the questions of fellows; fellows learn them only where they suit their patients.*

## Teaching and writing

- More than 40 fellows from India and abroad have trained with him in cataract, refractive and glaucoma surgery.
- 37 or more research papers, one book and four book chapters.
- Editor-in-Chief of The Fellowship Compendium, forthcoming from Jaypee Brothers, written with 18 contributors to help fellows bridge training and independent practice.

## Recognition

- Dronacharya Samman for teaching and mentorship, Young Ophthalmologists Society of India, 2026, received alongside ASG colleagues.

- Young Ophthalmic Teachers of India, Forum of Ophthalmic Teachers of India, conferred at its Seventh National Assembly, AIIMS New Delhi, 2024; Young Achiever Award, ISCKRS, 2024.
- Six state and national society gold medals (UPSOS, UKSOS, BOS and ACOIN).
- HTDS Millennial Award, Hindustan Times Group, 2025; Uttar Pradesh Ratna, Jagran Group, 2024; Best Ophthalmologist of the Year, North India, The Economic Times, 2022.

## Service

- Founder of The Asoka Foundation, working against preventable blindness since 2009.
- Established ASG Chakshudham Eye Hospital, offering the same facilities at a consultation fee of Rs 50; also involved in the School Eye Health Initiative (SEHI).
- Designed the DISHA and NAZAR patient communication systems, so that patients in busy outpatient clinics understand their own care.

*He regards all of this as the work of the teams, teachers and patients he has been fortunate to learn from.*

### JOINING THE PROGRAMME

## Eligibility and Pathway

### Eligibility

- Primary medical qualification equivalent to MBBS, with a postgraduate or specialist qualification in ophthalmology.
- Valid registration or licence to practise in the home country, with a current Certificate of Good Standing.
- Selection through the institute's screening and interview process.
- Grant of NMC Temporary Permission under Section 34 before the fellowship begins.

## Pathway to Joining

|          |                                                                                                                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Selection</b><br>Screening, interview and written offer from ASG                                                               |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Sponsor pack</b><br>ASG issues the signed sponsorship letter, undertaking and this brochure                                    |
| <b>3</b> | <b>NMC application</b><br>Fellow applies online with degrees, registration and Good Standing, with certified English translations |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Permission, then visa</b><br>Fellow obtains NMC Temporary Permission, then applies for the Indian visa                         |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Joining</b><br>Training starts on the permitted date and ends on or before its expiry                                          |

## Documents for NMC Temporary Permission

The fellow applies online on the NMC portal (Temporary Permission u/s 34, NMC Act, 2019) and uploads the following. Any document not in English must be uploaded together with a certified English translation.

### UPLOADED BY THE FELLOW

- 1 Passport (photo and details page) and a recent passport-size photograph
- 2 All medical degrees: primary medical degree and postgraduate or specialist qualification in ophthalmology (original and certified English translation), entered at the degree section of the form
- 3 Medical registration certificate or licence to practise from the home country (original and certified English translation)
- 4 Certificate of Good Standing from the licence-granting authority (original and certified English translation), entered at the good-standing section of the form
- 5 Application fee as notified by NMC

## PROVIDED BY ASG, FOR THE FELLOW TO UPLOAD

- 6 Sponsorship letter from the head of the institution, on letterhead, in NMC's prescribed format for Category C and D applications
- 7 Programme brochure (this document)

**Good to know:** NMC may ask for clarifications by email during processing; replies go back through the same email thread. Apply for the Indian visa only after the Temporary Permission is granted, and keep the training strictly within its dates and at the sponsoring institute. Requirements can change, so the checklist on the NMC portal at the time of application prevails.

## Contacts

### FELLOWSHIP ENQUIRIES

**Dr Pratyush Ranjan**

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### COORDINATION

**Mrs Neha Saraogi, Regional Operations Manager, UP Zone**

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### VENUE

**ASG Superspeciality Eye Hospital, Varanasi**

Corporate Plaza, Mahmoorganj, Varanasi 221010 · 1800-1211-804



#### TRAINING CENTRE

## ASG Superspeciality Eye Hospital, Varanasi

Ground Floor, Corporate Plaza, Rathyatra-Mahmoorganj Road

Gopal Vihar Colony, Mahmoorganj, Varanasi 221010, India

Appointments: 1800-1211-804 · [www.asgeyehospital.com](http://www.asgeyehospital.com)

#### FELLOWSHIP ENQUIRIES

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