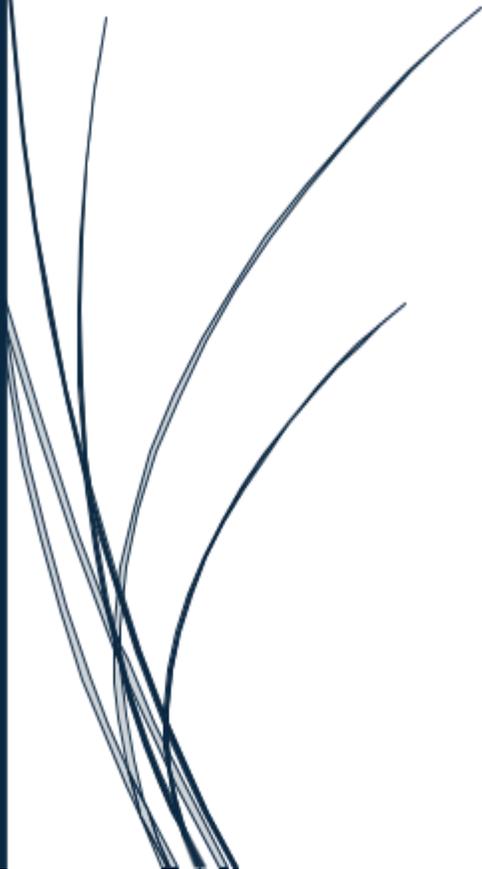


4/24/2025

**Foundation for the Advancement of Wound Care (FAWC)**

**GUIDELINES: FAWC FELLOWSHIP GRANT PROGRAM**



## **FAWC FELLOWSHIP GRANT PROGRAM**

### **Part I: Introduction**

It is the position of the American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery (ABWMS), together with its sister organization, the Foundation for the Advancement of Wound Care (FAWC), that recognition of wound care as a medical subspecialty would serve both the needs of both patients who suffer from chronic wounds and the physicians who care for them. The American demographic shifts continually toward a patient cohort of advanced age and long-term illness, often complicated by chronic wounds. Dissemination of training in wound healing would allow for more cost-effective and evidenced-based care delivery to this growing population.

To take the first steps towards recognizing wound care as a medical subspecialty, the FAWC will manage a grant program to encourage the development and proliferation of wound care fellowships. Under the direction of physicians certified by the ABWMS, fellows in these programs will receive the training to address society's growing wound care needs.

The grant program's purpose is twofold: 1.) to educate and train qualified wound care physicians and 2.) to generate a sufficient number of ongoing wound care fellowship programs to validate and substantiate our position in seeking ACGME accreditation of these fellowship programs.

The following outlines the Foundation's Fellowship Grant Program. Awards will be made starting in 2024.

### **Part II: Program Goal and Objectives**

The program's goal is to generate allopathic and osteopathic physicians specializing in wound care. The program plans to achieve this goal by funding post-residency fellowship training experiences. These fellowships will be modeled on comparable programs accredited by the American Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Accreditation of wound care fellowships by the ACGME will serve as an indication of the program's success. Obtaining subspecialty status for wound care physicians will become possible when there are a sufficient number of fellows and fellowship programs to demonstrate the support and engagement among the medical community for this recognition. Fellows who complete FAWC-funded wound care fellowships will be eligible to sit for the ABWMS certification examination, waiving the non-fellowship requirement for three years of wound care practice before becoming exam-eligible.

## **1. Objectives**

1. Number of fellows: The number of fellowships funded through this grant program will depend upon the interest in the field and the availability of funds. The FAWC Board of Directors anticipates that a minimum of five (5) fellowships will be produced in each year of the program, generating five to 10 fellows. Board-eligible licensed physicians and physicians in practice who maintain AOA or ABMS board certification will be eligible candidates for FAWC-funded fellowship.
2. Educational Outcomes: Physicians completing a fellowship program will be trained following the ABWMS Core Curriculum and be prepared to take advantage of advancing wound care technologies. The ABWMS Core Curriculum is a comprehensive resource for educators. At the same time, it is sufficiently flexible to accommodate various educational requirements where training occurs. The FAWC will undertake periodic surveys of fellowship-trained Diplomates to assess the effectiveness of their training in providing them with essential skills for successful employment in a wound care setting.
3. Performance on the ABWMS Certification Examination: Scores and pass/fail rates on the ABWMS certification examination taken by fellows who complete an FAWC Fellowship will be part of the data used to assess an FAWC fellowship.
4. Preparation: The training offered to fellows will give them the skills to work productively and effectively in various settings, including hospital-based and free-standing wound care centers, where they may serve as leaders, medical directors, and program directors. The proliferation of wound care centers mandates that the fellow be conversant with the demands of these settings. The number of fellows who successfully engage in wound care practice will reflect the achievement of this objective.
5. Program Directors: Within five years of the program's operation, a cohort of program directors volunteers will be formed to allow collaboration on program goals and objectives, strategies to address accreditation issues, and student evaluation. In time, this group will be organized into an association of fellowship directors to provide direction and policy for the education of fellows nationally.

## **2. Program Eligibility:**

To be eligible to receive grant funds, applicants must complete an application and submit it per the program's annual schedule. Additionally, each applicant must meet the following specific requirements.

1. Applicant Institution – Applicant institutions will be considered eligible only if received from an accredited institution.
2. Applicant Funding - A grant through this program is not intended to fund the entire cost of the fellowship program or its personnel. To be eligible, the applicant must contribute meaningfully to the costs of the proposed program.

3. Program Director—A physician certified in wound care by the American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery (ABWMS) or who becomes certified within 12 months of the program’s inception may serve as program director for the fellowship program.
4. Resources – Applicants must maintain a complement of faculty and a sufficient patient base to conduct the fellowship program successfully.
5. Curriculum—Programs are required to use the ABWMS Core Curriculum in designing their programs. The submitted curriculum will reflect the resources available to the specific training site(s). Applicant institutions are encouraged to be innovative in their program design while adhering generally to ACGME’s Common Program Requirements (Fellowship).
6. Graduates—Fellowship graduates must take the ABWMS certification examination no later than two years after completing the fellowship.
7. The program must offer trainees research opportunities, including publication of articles in professional journals and presentations at professional meetings.

### **Part III: Application Form**

Fellowship grants will be made only after review and approval by the Foundation for the Advancement of Wound Care. For a fellowship grant to be considered, the application form must be completed and submitted online by October 31, 2025. This Word Application Document should be used as a worksheet to guide the completion of the online application.

*A. Online Application: [click here](#) to be taken to the online application for the 2023-2024 Fellowship Grant Program in Wound Care.*

1. Institutional Information:  
Fellowship Program Name:  
Northwell Advanced  
Wound and Burn  
Fellowship  
  
Street: 1999 Marcus  
Avenue Suite M6  
City:Lake Success  
State:NY  
Zip Code:11042
2. Fellowship Director Information:  
Fellowship Director First Name:  
Alisha  
  
Fellowship Director Last Name:  
Oropallo  
  
Fellowship Director Title:Program

Director, ABWMS Advanced  
Wound and Burn Fellowship

Date of ABWMS Certification or Proposed Test Date:  
6/26/2021

Office Phone Number: 516 233-3780

Mobile Number: 718 710-7114

E-mail Address: aoropallo@northwell.edu

3. Fellowship Coordinator Information:

Coordinator First Name: Gabrielle

Coordinator Last Name: Matas

Coordinator Title: Manager, GME Training Programs Division of Surgical Education  
at NSLIJ Long Island Jewish Medical Center

Office Phone Number: 718-470-4475

Mobile Number: 929-418-1733

E-mail Address: gmatas@northwell.edu

4. Designated Institutional Official (DIO):

Development Officer First Name:

Diane

Development Officer Last Name: Marbury

Development Officer Title: Assistant Vice President, Operations Grants Management  
Office, Northwell Health

Office Phone Number: (516) 465-2664

Mobile Number: (347) 480-6995

E-mail Address: dmarbury@northwell.edu

5. Funding Contact Information:

Funding Name (as it appears on W-9): Alisha Oropallo

Street: 350 Community Drive

City: Manhasset

State: New York

Zip Code: 11030-3816

6. What percentage of the Fellowship Director's time is dedicated to teaching  
Fellows during their training? 50%

7. How many years of experience leading a program does the Fellowship  
Director have? 4\_\_\_ (optional)

**B. Faculty and Program Specifics**

1. Number of fellows expected for the 2023– 2024 Wound Care Fellowship year. 1

2. Do you have a formal Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) program within your Fellowship program or institution? Yes
3. Funding amount requested: \$110,000
4. Incorporate an assurance that your institution is prepared to implement the proposal and contract with a fellow if awarded a grant.

We have recently created an NST-ACGME program since our initial implementation of the ABWMS FAWC 4 years ago. Our institution is versed in prior FAWC awards, which have helped our fellows achieve completion of the program and job placement. We have the necessary resources, such as the Grants Management Office and the Department of Surgery, to assist with the onboarding of the fellow. We have created a delineation of privileges, work hour policy, fellowship daily schedule, fellow well-being policy, transition of care policy, supervision policy, block scheduling for the fellow with their rotations, and program checklist to ensure that the fellow completes the curriculum and is prepared to sit for the ABWMS examination.

5. For each clinical area listed below, identify the primary faculty person responsible, the person's degree(s) and (sub)specialty, and the site where the training will occur.

<b>Clinical Area</b>	<b>Name of Primary Faculty + Degree</b>	<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Site of Training</b>
Management of arterial, venous, lymphatic, and neuropathic ulcers.	Kuldeep Singh MD, FSVS, FACS	Vascular Surgery	Staten Island University Hospital
Management of pressure ulcers/injuries.	Marisa Ranire-Maguire MD	Colorectal Surgery	North Shore University Hospital, Long Island Jewish Hospital, Northwell Health Comprehensive Wound Healing Center
Management of surgical wounds.	Cristina Del Pin MD	General Surgery	Long Island Jewish Hospital, Northwell Health Comprehensive Wound Healing Center
Management of atypical wounds	Amit Garg MD	Dermatology	Department of Dermatology
Basic dressings, advanced biologics, and other modalities in wound care.	Alisha Oropallo MD	Wound Care, Vascular Surgery, General Surgery	Northwell Comprehensive Wound Healing Center
Basic management of burns.	Michael Cooper MD, FACS	Burn and Plastic Surgery	Staten Island University Hospital
Basics of wound bed preparation.	Alisha Oropallo MD	Wound Care, Vascular Surgery, General Surgery	Northwell Comprehensive Wound Healing Center
Nutrition in wound care.	Alisha Oropallo MD	Wound Care, Vascular Surgery, General Surgery	Northwell Comprehensive Wound Healing Center
Management of wound infection	Maria Sfakianos MD	Acute Care Trauma/Critical Care Surgery	North Shore University Hospital
Basic science of wound healing.	Alisha Oropallo	Wound Care, Vascular Surgery, General Surgery	Northwell Comprehensive Wound Healing Center
Wound reconstruction and the role of plastic surgery.	Michael Cooper	Burn and Plastic Surgery	Staten Island University Hospital

Role of and access to HBOT in wound care.	Alisha Oropallo	Wound Care, Vascular Surgery, General Surgery, Hyperbaric Certification	Northwell Comprehensive Wound Healing Center
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6. Please provide any additional pertinent information regarding the application or program in the space below.

The Northwell Comprehensive Wound Care Center is accredited by the Undersea and Hyperbarics Medical Society and has completed over 90 clinical trials. Our full-time faculty are board certified in wound care, general surgery, vascular surgery, podiatric surgery, and other surgical subspecialties. Our campuses provide the fellow with a diverse range of knowledge and experience.

Cutting-edge wound care technology such as fluorescent imaging, infrared and multispectral imaging will be provided. The site also provides an onsite vascular lab which the fellow will be equipped with the knowledge in interpretation of vascular studies. Fellows will rotate in outpatient and inpatient settings, performing surgical procedures related to wound care. Required rotations in the burn unit at Staten Island University Hospital will provide in-depth management of complex wounds. Further development to enhance the fellow's skill set will be provided through elective rotations.

The fellow will present at CME journal club meetings, participate in national conferences, and perform innovative research. The fellow will have the opportunity to interact with the podiatry service. Understanding complex cases and diabetic foot ulcers is an important aspect of inpatient and outpatient wound management.

- 7. Be aware that adding a 40-hour UHMS course will enhance the skills and marketability of your fellow(s). Will your program offer it? Yes
- 8. Please upload a copy of the proposed Fellowship Budget.
- 9. Please upload your current W-9.
- 10. Please upload a letter from the Chief of Medical Staff indicating support for the fellowship program.

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I certify that all the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge and understand that incompleteness of the information will disqualify my institution from the application process.

Electronic Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Electronic Signature of Institutional Representative:

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Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part IV: Application Review & Awards:**

- I. Composition of Review Committee: Each year, the FAWC Board of Directors will convene a committee of not more than three (3) individuals actively engaged in some form of graduate medical education, plus a FAWC non-voting director. The Committee will review received applications for grants in accordance with the following criteria and in a manner that the Committee determines best meets its needs.
- II. Review Criteria. The Review Committee will apply the following criteria and rank each application based on the number of points assigned. The assigned points shall not exceed the total number associated with each criterion.
  - 1) Application is complete – 0 pts.
  - 2) The program director is qualified or indicates will be – 30 pts.
  - 3) Program faculty are adequate to meet the program's goals – 30 pts.
  - 4) A range of points (1 to 5) will be awarded to an application based upon the Committee's assessment of the strength of commitment to the project as indicated in the letter from the Chief Medical Officer.
  - 5) The program is endorsed and supported by other educational programs and services of the institution.
  - 6) Institutional moral and financial support is adequate for the program's success – 25 pts.
  - 7) Fellow evaluation strategies are adequate – X pts.
  - 8) Program evaluation strategies are adequate – X pts.
  - 9) The Committee may award an additional 5 pts where the 40-hour HBO course is offered to a fellow(s).

- III. **Review Committee Meetings:** Meetings will occur in the fall of the year, and awards will be announced before the end of the calendar year. When additional funds become available, announcements will be made.