

Dear SICOT Member:

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for the 2011 AAOS-SICOT International Surgical Skills Scholarship Program. Through a generous contribution from SICOT-USA, AAOS will award one scholarship to a SICOT member for the intended purpose to travel to the United States to attend a hands-on orthopaedic surgical skills course with cadaveric specimens in the Orthopaedic Learning Center in Rosemont, Illinois, USA. The scholarship visit also includes a 2-3 day observership at a high-volume USA hospital.

**The application deadline for the 2011 AAOS-SICOT-USA scholarship program is:
9 September 2011.**

Eligibility Requirements/Candidate Selection Criteria

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must:

- Be a member in good standing in SICOT
- Have good command of the English language (should be able to read English without difficulty and communicate easily in medical English)
- Be aged 45 years or younger as of December 1 of the scholarship year
- Have completed all basic and specialty orthopaedic training with a minimum of 2 years of practical experience.
- Be able to travel to the United States and have no visa restrictions or anticipate having any difficulty obtaining a US visa
- Applicants cannot be previous recipients of an AAOS international scholarship program.

Candidate selection criteria

Preferred candidate shall have:

- A strong record of leadership roles or positions
- A proven record of teaching either academically or within their professional organizations/health care community
- A history of volunteering in their community (serving the poor or indigent, participating in disaster relief work, working in public hospitals, etc)
- Demonstrated a commitment to improving patient care (brought new techniques to a hospital or clinic, sought learning opportunities, implemented monitoring systems, etc)

How to apply

1. Please complete the attached International Scholarship Application. Please note:
 - The application is a fillable PDF form. You will be able to fill out the form and save it to your computer. Please send the application to the email address indicated in the form: gurevich@aaos.org. **Only applications sent by electronic mail will be accepted.**
 - The required fields are marked with asterisk (*). Only the applications where required fields are filled-out will be accepted.

Note: As part of the application process, applicants are asked to include personal statements. The statements are an opportunity for applicants, in their own words, to inform AAOS why they want to come to the United States to receive this education, why they are qualified to receive this scholarship and how they plan to use this information once they return home. The personal statement is a critical part of the application and should clearly convey the candidate's enthusiasm for helping to improve orthopedic care in their community and motivation for seeking this scholarship.

2. Please send two letters of recommendation to AAOS by electronic mail gurevich@aaos.org or fax +1-847-823-0668. See Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation below. Please note:
 - The letters should include a discussion of the strengths of the applicant in the areas noted above
 - If the applicant works in an educational institution, a letter from the Chief of Orthopaedics recommending the applicant and supporting the applicant's efforts to bring new ideas to their institution must be included.
3. Please send a copy of your SICOT membership to AAOS by electronic mail gurevich@aaos.org or fax +1-847-823-0668.
4. Please send a copy of your Curriculum Vitae to AAOS by electronic mail gurevich@aaos.org or fax +1-847-823-0668.

Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation

All applicants must submit two letters of recommendation. While candidate selection is based on the merits of all information provided, the letters are ranked high in the review process. **At least one of the letters must be submitted by the applicant's training program director or an orthopaedic surgeon who has known the applicant for at least five years.**

Writers should include the following:

- Duration of time and description of how they have known the applicant professionally.
- Overview of the applicant's educational skills and capacity to learn new things.
- Information pertaining to the applicant's leadership qualities.
- Information pertaining to the applicant's potential to disseminate information obtained through the scholarship experience to his/her fellow colleagues.

All materials must be received by 9 September 2011 for the application to be complete.

An announcement of the 2011 recipient will be sent via email by the end of December 2011.

If you have questions please contact Anna Gurevich, International Scholarship Coordinator, at gurevich@aaos.org