



Fellowships at Venkat Charmalaya-Institute for advanced dermatology and postgraduate training

Introduction: *Venkat Charmalaya* was established in 2003 by *Dr. Venkataram Mysore* after his return from abroad. It is now a premier dermatology institute both in patient care and in education. *Venkat Charmalaya* has offered three types of fellowships since 2005- initially these fellowships were totally paid (where in students used to pay a fee for the training); In order to broaden the training, Free fellowships were offered from 2006, as part of ACSI fellowships. In order to offer structured fellowships and to help students who could not afford to pay, stipendary fellowships were started in association with **Rajeev Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru**, thus becoming the first private nonmedical college institute in Karnataka to offer such fellowships.

Training: The syllabus is of course laid by the University- but **Venkat Charmalaya** has believed in offering more; that wholesome training should be offered to trainees. Thus while the university syllabus in medical cosmetology is limited to chemical peels, Botulinum toxin injections, Fillers, and similar minor procedures, the syllabus followed by the institute has been expanded to include all lasers (currently the institute has five of them and also targeted phototherapy), and also dermatosurgery including basic dermatosurgery, acne surgery, vitiligo surgery including cell suspension methods. In all these procedures, hands on training is provided.

In addition, training is arranged by external trainers where needed. Training is provided through power point presentations, videos, models etc. In addition, students have opportunity to learn advanced phototherapy, dermatopathology. A high number of procedures of all types are performed at *Venkat Charmalaya* and this provides unique setting for learning. In addition, students are exposed to creative academic writing; *Dr Venkataram Mysore* is one of the foremost authors in India; students are provided adequate opportunities for publications- which stand in good stead for future career of young doctors.

Venkat Charmalaya conducts several research projects throughout the year and students are involved in these projects. Our fellows have won prizes at several conferences in the past such as *Vitilicon* and *Acsicon*. Incentives are provided for such students.

Venkat Charmalaya believes in providing value additions in training and ensuring wholesome and complete preparation of the student for the future. A student, when he/she passes out, will have adequate exposure in all aspects of medical cosmetology and lasers, and basic dermatosurgery and ready for establishing practice. Further, even though, the university does not specify any specific amount of stipend to be paid, *Venkat Charmalaya* believes in adequately compensating the work done by fellows.

It is due to these reasons that the fellowships have proved popular over the years. We receive applications throughout the year-our fellowship fees range from Rs 10,000 -1,00,000 depending on the duration and type of training and often students wait for months to get an opportunity. The *RGUHS* fellowships reflect our social commitment, whereby the institute provides stipendary fellowships to students, who are exceptional and deserving. The selection is based totally on merit.

Next course of fellowship in medical cosmetology at *Venkat Charmalaya* recognized by *Rajeev Gandhi University of Health sciences* will be due in July 2016. The course is of one year and this is the 9th batch running. Hands on training on all aesthetic procedures as per syllabus is assured. Students also learn dermatopathology, practice management, phototherapy and dermatology in general. A congenial learning experience is guaranteed and a stipend as per rules is provided.

Training fee for *Venkat Charmalaya* is 75,000/- and for university 20,000/-. Apply with curriculum vitae (CV) to training.venkatcharmalaya@gmail.com. Interview will be in 3rd Week of June.