Qualifying to be an
ACVS Founding Fellow in Minimally Invasive Surgery

Description of an ACVS Founding Fellow in Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS)

A Founding Fellow in Minimally Invasive Surgery is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) who has obtained additional training and experience in minimally invasive surgery (MIS) beyond ACVS surgery residency training and devotes a major portion of his or her professional effort to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of patients undergoing MIS therapies and to research in the field of MIS.

Founding Fellow status may be achieved in the following disciplines:

- Small Animal Soft Tissue (laparoscopy and thoracoscopy)
- Large Animal Soft Tissue (laparoscopy and thoracoscopy)
- Small Animal Orthopedics (arthroscopy and fracture repair)
- Large Animal Orthopedics (arthroscopy, tenoscopy, bursoscopy and fracture repair)

Surgeons applying for Founding Fellow status should be able to demonstrate high level proficiency in performing MIS procedures and managing comprehensive care, including preoperative and postoperative care and management of morbidity related to the procedures. A Founding Fellow must be proficient in the knowledge of the benefits and risks associated with a multidisciplinary approach that includes surgical treatment and have a high level of expertise in the selection of patients for minimally invasive procedures. An ACVS Founding Fellow in MIS should be able to successfully interact with other disciplines and to provide a leadership role in the surgical, medical, and lay communities in matters pertaining to MIS.

Minimum Requirements to be Considered a Founding Fellow

Applicants must have completed these requirements by the time they submit their application for Founding Fellow status.

1. A minimum of five years of ACVS Diplomate status.
2. A minimum of three years of experience in minimally invasive surgery, beyond what was attained during surgery residency training.
3. A minimum of three scientific publications as a primary or corresponding author related to surgical laparoscopy and thoracoscopy or arthroscopy or minimally invasive fracture fixation. Review articles or articles in Compendium or Veterinary Clinics, case series with less than six cases, or single case reports do not qualify unless they describe a new technique.
4. Have presented a minimum of five abstracts on MIS at the ACVS Symposium/Surgery Summit, ECVS Annual Meeting, or equivalent national or international meetings, including:
   - Veterinary Endoscopy Society for soft tissue surgery (laparoscopy and thoracoscopy)
   - Veterinary Orthopedic Society
   - European Society of Veterinary Orthopaedics and Traumatology for orthopedics (arthroscopy and minimally invasive fracture fixation)
Procedure for Applying for Founding Fellow Status

1. Founding Fellow applications will be accepted by the ACVS office during the following period: October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017. A complete application package should be sent to: Tamika Anderson, Project Coordinator, ACVS, 19785 Crystal Rock Drive, Suite 305, Germantown, Maryland, 20874 (301-916-0200 x114; tanderson@acvs.org). Individual pieces of an application package, other than the application fee, will not be accepted.

A complete application package must include:

- A letter of intent addressing the applicant’s desire to be considered for a Founding Fellow in Minimally Invasive Surgery and in which of the four disciplines. The letter should include a brief description of their contribution to the field of minimally invasive surgery over their career.

- A mini-curriculum vitae that outlines / demonstrates the applicant’s expertise and experience in the field of MIS. The curriculum vitae (CV) should concentrate on the 5 years prior to application and include the information pertaining to requirements 2-4 (see Minimum Requirements to be Considered a Founding Fellow). The CV should also include the following:
  - (UPDATED 2.8.17) List name, affiliation, education, year ACVS diplomate status was obtained and previous professional experience. State the length of time the applicant has been clinically active within the discipline.
  - (UPDATED 2.8.17) Scientific Publications:
    - List 3–5 publications in the specific discipline which support qualification. Do NOT list publications not pertaining to the field of MIS.
    - For each publication state the name of the senior author. If a publication has a resident as first author and a senior author that is listed second, last, or as corresponding, both could count the publication. However, only one senior author is permitted per article.
      Dr. Kennedy’s role was resident, Dr. Fransson was senior author.
    - For equine orthopedics and small animal arthroscopy, list only arthroscopy articles with an arthroscopic component or relevance. Articles relating to joint disease without arthroscopic relevance will not be considered qualifying.
    - For small animal, minimally invasive fracture fixation, list only articles with relevance to minimally invasive fracture fixation (MIPO).
  - (UPDATED 2.8.17) Supplemental Information:
    - List 5–7 abstract presentations which support qualification.
    - List 1–3 books edited if pertaining to discipline.
    - List up to 5 book chapters authored pertaining to discipline.
    - List no more than 5 invited national or international presentations at scientific symposiums pertaining to discipline.
☐ List no more than 5 courses instructing in clinical technique (hands-on courses) pertaining to discipline.
☐ List 1–3 honors and awards related to advances in the discipline.
☐ List 1–3 patents or other intellectual property developed for practical use in the discipline.

☐ Two letters of recommendation from ACVS Diplomates recognized as leaders in MIS documenting the interest of the ACVS Diplomate in Minimally Invasive Surgery.

☐ A non-refundable application fee of $100.
  a. To pay by MasterCard or Visa, choose one of the following options:
     ➢ Submit payment online at www.acvs.org/fees.
     ➢ Fax the Founding Fellow Application Fee Payment form to 301-916-2287.
     ➢ Mail the Founding Fellow Application Fee Payment form to the ACVS office.
  b. To pay fee by check, mail application fee and Founding Fellow Application Fee Payment form to the ACVS office.

2. Applications are reviewed by an ACVS MIS Founding Fellow Selection Committee composed of a representative(s) of the ACVS Diplomates who organized the MIS Fellowship, a member of the ACVS Fellowship Committee, and an at-large ACVS Diplomate not associated with the fellowship discipline. The Selection Committee determines if the applications demonstrate the minimum requirements to be considered a Founding Fellow have been met.

3. The ACVS MIS Founding Fellow Selection Committee sends its recommendations regarding the applications to the Fellowship Committee who will review the recommendations and forward to the ACVS Board of Regents for final approval.

4. Applicants are notified of the Board of Regents’ determination within six months of the date of receipt of the complete application package at the ACVS office.

5. Successful applicants receive a certificate from the ACVS recognizing their accomplishment and indicating that they are now an ACVS Founding Fellow in Minimally Invasive Surgery.

6. Successful applicants may use the title “ACVS Founding Fellow, Minimally Invasive Surgery.”

Questions should be directed to Tamika Anderson, Project Coordinator, ACVS, 19785 Crystal Rock Drive, Suite 305, Germantown, Maryland, 20874 (301-916-0200 x114; tanderson@acvs.org).