Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship FAQs

Application Process/Inquires
1. What visas does the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program support?
   A. The Cardiovascular Medicine Fellowship Program at the University of Missouri-Columbia supports J1 and H1B visas.

2. Do I have to apply through ERAS or can I submit an application directly?
   A. We ONLY accept applications for fellowship through ERAS.

3. What information should I submit to have a complete ERAS application?
   A. In order to have a complete application for the fellowship program you will need to submit the following:
      - Current CV
      - Personal statement
      - Three current letters of recommendation (one must be from your program director)
      - Copy of ECGMG certificate (for Foreign Medical Graduates)
      - USMLE transcripts

4. When is the application deadline?
   A. The specific deadline varies every year but usually the deadline is October 1.

5. How long is the review process for applications?
   A. Applications are reviewed as soon as the deadline closes. The time it takes to review all the applications depends on the number of applications received.

Interviews
6. When do interviews occur?
   A. Currently we interview in September and October.

7. How will I be notified if I receive an interview?
   A. Applicants are notified via ERAS if they receive an interview. In this e-mail you will receive interview date options. Since we interview 30 applicants it can be difficult to find dates that accommodate everyone’s schedule so these dates are first come first serve. (See Question 9 for the interview process).

8. Will I be notified if I did NOT receive an interview?
   A. Yes. We notify all candidates via ERAS if they do not receive an interview.
9. What is the interview process?
   A. If you are selected for an interview you’ll receive an e-mail via ERAS with 3 or 4 interview dates. Typically, we pick dates on a Monday or Friday to help with travel and call issues you may have. These dates are first come, first serve. Once you have selected a date and e-mailed it back to the coordinator you’ll receive a confirmation that your date has been secured.
   The night before there is a social event for candidate to meet faculty and fellows and discuss the program. The day of the interview, candidates attend a morning conference and then are split into two groups. One group will go on a tour of the hospital while the other group interviews with faculty and chief fellows.
   Candidates interview with each faculty/chief fellow for 15-20 minutes until they have met with all interviewers. Mid-morning the groups switch. Those who interviewed first now go on a tour of the hospital and the other group interviews. Once all interviews are finished, candidates enjoy a lunch with the current fellows to discuss the fellowship program. After lunch, candidates are free to leave.

10. How long is the interview day?
    A. We recommend all applicants arrive at the hospital at 7:00 AM. Candidates meet the coordinator in the front lobby. The coordinator will escort the candidates to the academic office and will register the candidates. Morning conference begins at 7:30 AM. The interview day typically ends at 2 pm. This end time may vary depending on the number of candidates.

11. How will I get to the hospital the day of the interview?
    A. You may always drive yourself or take a cab to the hospital the day of the interview. If you stay at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel (See Question 18 for more information about hotels) there will be a shuttle service that will take you to the hospital and back to the hotel after the interviews. You’ll want to check with the front desk for the time as the coordinator arranges the departure time and arrival time for the hotel shuttle to the hospital.

12. How many fellows does the program take each year?
    A. Currently, we take three clinical and one research fellow per year. There are a total of 12 fellows; 4 in each year.

13. After the interviews how do I know if I was selected for the fellowship program?
    A. The University of Missouri-Columbia Cardiovascular Medicine Fellowship Program participates in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). In order to be selected candidates MUST register with the NRMP: http://www.nrmp.org/ We follow the guidelines and rules of the NRMP. We submit our match list by the designated deadline. The match list typically appears mid-December.
14. What happens after I am selected for the fellowship program?
   A. If you match with us, you’ll receive a letter from the Program Director. This letter is a written agreement that you are accepting the position. NOTE: This is not an official contract but is an offer letter so both parties have something in writing. Around February of the year you start your fellowship, you’ll receive an e-mail and packet from the HR credentialing coordinator. It is very important that you fill out the contents of the packet and return the information back to HR as quickly as possible to prevent delay in your fellowship start date. It is also important to keep the fellowship coordinator updated on any address or e-mail changes you make before starting your fellowship at the University of Missouri-Columbia. You must obtain a Permanent Medical license or Training License in Missouri prior to starting your fellowship.

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

15. How do I get to Columbia, Missouri?
   A. There are many options when it comes to traveling to Columbia, Missouri. First, you can drive to Columbia. Columbia, Missouri is in the middle of Kansas City, Missouri and St. Louis, Missouri on I-70. Secondly, Columbia, Missouri does have a regional airport only 15 minutes from Columbia with flights to and from Atlanta and Memphis. You can fly into the airport and take a cab or hotel shuttle (depending on the hotel) to reach the hotel. Lastly, you can choose to fly into Kansas City International Airport (MCI) or Lambert - St. Louis International Airport (STL). Both airports are approximately a 1 hour and 45 minute to 2 hour drive to Columbia. You can rent a car, take a cab, or use Mo-X (a shuttle service) (See Question 16 for more information on Mo-X) to get to Columbia.

16. What is Mo-X and how to I book them?
   A. Mo-X is a schedule ground transportation service between Columbia and Kansas City and St. Louis Airports. There website is: https://www.moexpress.com/tac/default.aspx Phone Number for Mo-X is 573-256-1991 or toll free 877-669-4826. To book a shuttle you can either call them or reserve a shuttle on-line. This must be done at least 24-hours in advance. Pricing and a schedule of times can be found on-line. You must be ready by the time stated as they run on a tight schedule.

17. What if I want to take a cab or taxi?
   A. There are many taxi and/or cab services in Columbia. Here are a couple
      Terry’s Taxi-573-441-1414
      Tiger Taxi - 573-474-3222
18. What hotels are available in Columbia?
   A. Columbia has many hotels available to stay at. If you choose to stay at the Courtyard Marriott they have discounted deals for applicants through the University of Missouri-Columbia. You must notify the coordinator if you are going to stay at the Courtyard so the coordinator can notify the hotel and provide you with the code for the discount. Below is a short list of the hotels available with contact information. Additionally, the Courtyard does have a shuttle service to Columbia Regional Airport and to the hospital.
   - Courtyard Marriott – 573-443-8000
   - Hampton Inn and Suites Columbia (at the University of Missouri) – 573-214-1222
   - Stoney Creek Inn – 800-659-2220

19. What is a research fellow?
   A. There are two tracks in the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program. First is a clinical track, which most fellows are on. This is a three year program in which the fellow completes all required rotations, performs clinical duties, and takes evening and weekend calls. The second track is a research track, which typically only one fellow each year is selected for. This fellows work with a selected faculty member who mentors the fellow through their research. The fellows first year (first 12 months of fellowship) is spent on research blocks. They are still required to conduct clinic and take call in the first year of fellowship. The research fellow begins their clinical rotations in their second year of fellowship.

20. What certifications/boards will I be prepared for when I finish my fellowship?
   A. A fellow on the clinical track will be able to use elective rotations to complete the following requirements for certification/boards in the following areas: General Cardiology boards, Level II Echocardiography and Nuclear Boards.
      A fellow on the research track will have a limited number of electives since their first year is dedicated to research and they must still meet the general cardiology requirements. Therefore, research fellows will have to make a decision early on as to which certification/boards are most important to you.

21. Does the University of Missouri-Columbia have other sub-specialty Cardiovascular Disease fellowships such as Interventional or Electrophysiology fellowships?
   A. At this time the University of Missouri-Columbia only has a General Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship.

22. Is the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program at the University of Missouri accredited?
   A. Yes, our Cardiovascular Medicine Fellowship Program is accredited through the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)
     [http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/newsRoom/newsRm_acGlance.asp](http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/newsRoom/newsRm_acGlance.asp)
      The ACGME reviews the program at the end of the term to ensure we are in compliance with program requirements set forth by the accrediting body. The ACGME and review committees are committed to improving the quality of resident/fellow education in the United States
23. What is accreditation?
   A. Accreditation ensures a basic level of quality in the education you receive from an institution and ensures your degree will be recognized.

24. How does accreditation affect me?
   A. Accreditation is the tool used to monitor, assess, and evaluate the standards and quality of education you receive. Additionally, many hospitals in the United States and Canada will NOT accept someone who did NOT attend an accredited medical institution.

25. What educational experiences can I expect?
   A. See “Conferences” under Fellowship Links

26. What are the program requirements?
   A. Nine months of non-laboratory clinical practice (ie: consultations, cardiac care units, postoperative care of cardiac surgery patients, congenital heart disease, heart failure/cardiac transplantation, preventative cardiology, and vascular medicine)
   Twenty-four months of clinical training, including inpatient and special experiences in which a minimum of twelve months must be spent in the following areas: Four months of cardiac catheterization laboratory; Six months of noninvasive cardiac evaluations broken down in the following manner: three months of echocardiography and Doppler, two months of nuclear cardiology, one month of noninvasive cardiac evaluation (including: exercise stress testing, ECG interpretation, ambulatory ECG monitoring, and MRI)
   Clinic consists of a half day every week which alternate between the University Hospital and the VA Hospital (located across the street).

27. What electives can I take?
   A. You can choose to do electives in Adult Congenital Heart Disease and, Advanced Heart Failure. In addition, you can use your elective time to do more Cardiac Catheterization, Echocardiography, or Nuclear Cardiology (after you’ve completed your required number of months) in order to reach the requirements for certification/boards.

28. Can I complete an elective at another institution?
   A. Yes, we allow fellows to do away rotations with approval of the Program Director. While we have didactics in many areas we don’t necessarily have the patient volume to support certain rotations such as adult congenital heart disease and advanced heart failure. These elective rotations are taken at Washington University in St. Louis.

29. How am I evaluated?
   A. Fellows are evaluated on the ABIM Core Competencies after each rotation. They are also evaluated on their clinic progress by the clinical faculty member quarterly.

30. What is the call schedule like?
   A. Each month the second year Chief Fellows puts together the call schedule and provides it to the coordinator. First year fellows take Consult and CICU call. Third years take Echo/Cath call and second years can take both calls. Fellows are placed on call in evenly distributed amounts (between all fellows) and cannot be placed on the schedule within three days of each other. Additionally, fellows do not take call the night before they have a clinic. When
on call, the fellow has an Attending who is also on call and provides supervision and advisement.

31. How many Cardiology faculty are there and what are their specialties?
   A. We have a total of 17 faculty members. Four Interventional faculty members, two Electrophysiology members, one MRI/Imaging specialist, nine non-invasive faculty members, and one full-time research faculty member.

32. What is Columbia, Missouri like?
   A. See “Columbia” under Fellowship Links