



American College of Cardiology

Cardiology



A Career of Many Choices

General Cardiology

Industry Research

Interventional Cardiology

CT/MR Imaging

Academic Research

Preventive Cardiology

Congenital Heart Disease

Pediatric Cardiology

Heart Failure/Transplant Cardiology

Ask Cardiologists

why they chose cardiology and almost all will tell you that Cardiology —

- offers multiple professional options and job flexibility to fit the your lifestyle
- is dynamic, constantly evolving as the science changes
- provides the opportunity to have a significant impact on patients' lives
- promises professional and financial fulfillment

Cardiology Offers Career Flexibility

Deciding on cardiology may extend your career preparation time, but the outcome offers high value. You can be a cardiologist and have a fulfilling career and personal life. Because of cardiology's many career options, you will be able to balance your career obligations with the needs of a spouse, children, parents and friends.

As your life changes, you can expand into different fields in cardiology that fit your changing lifestyle.

Society Needs You

Our society needs cardiovascular specialists. The 2004 35th Bethesda Conference Report, "Cardiology's Workforce Crisis: A Pragmatic Approach," warned that the United States is not training enough cardiovascular specialists. The need for that warning has not changed, which bodes ill for the many Americans who are entering their years of greatest cardiology need. Aging baby boomers and rising rates of obesity, Type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome among all age groups continue to increase the number of people requiring specialized cardiovascular care.



You Can Make a Difference

Heart disease is the number one killer in the United States for men and women. The National Center for Health Statistics cites 696,947 total deaths from heart disease in 2002. With an aging population and increasing numbers of diabetes and obesity, heart disease concerns are rising.

As a cardiologist, you can make a difference. There's no patient that you cannot help, whether you're looking at prevention, addressing an acute problem, or managing and controlling heart disease.



Planning Ahead

If you decide on a career in cardiology, be sure to check on the prerequisites. For example, fellows in cardiology must have fulfilled residency requirements for internal medicine and passed the American Board of Internal Medicine exam. Fellows in pediatric cardiology must have fulfilled residency requirements and be certified in pediatrics.

Find a Mentor

Mentors are excellent resources for professional advice, will give you confidence and direction and share their expertise to help guide you through medical school, residency, and your cardiology fellowship. Talk with many cardiologists, and they will tell you that one or more mentors played an important role in encouraging them to explore the many opportunities available within the field of cardiology.

If you cannot find a suitable mentor at your institution, there are other options. The American College of Cardiology Women in Cardiology and Fellows-in-Training Committees, for example, offer virtual mentoring online programs. Go to <http://www.acc.ementor.org> for more information



What Cardiologists Say.



"I chose Pediatric Cardiology because of a love for children and a fascination with the anatomy and physiology of congenital heart defects. I had two fantastic teachers in Medical School, Henry Sondheimer and Rae-Ellen Kavey who taught me the anatomy of heart disease and how to recognize it using m-mode echocardiography. We sure have come a long way from m-mode echo!"

Gerard R. Martin, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.A.C.C.

Executive Director, Center for Heart, Lung and Kidney Disease
Chief, Division of Cardiology
Professor of Pediatrics

The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences

"I was attracted by the diversity in cardiology. I like doing acute care medicine — cardiac intensive care and the catheterization lab — and having an outpatient practice where I can follow patients chronologically over time."

Patricia Best, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Interventional Cardiology
Mayo Clinic



"Cardiovascular disease ranks as the number one cause of death in the United States today. In cardiology I felt a person could have the greatest impact on global health. The field is also heavily funded by federal and private organizations for basic and clinical research, leading to many exciting opportunities for fellows and junior faculty."

Gabe Vorobiof, M.D.,

Fellow-in-Training, Cardiology Division,
University of Rochester Medical Center

"Cardiology attracted me because of the range of opportunities inherent in the speciality. As a cardiologist, one could be a basic scientist or a clinician. I could become an imager, a bedside diagnostician, or a proceduralist — or all of these things together. As a speciality, cardiology uniquely spans the spectrum of medicine."



Pamela S. Douglas, M.D., M.A.C.C.

Former President of the American College of Cardiology,
Chief of Cardiology, Duke University Cardiovascular Center of Medicine



"Why did I choose cardiology? It gave me the chance to make a difference with a disease that kills more than half the population. In cardiology, I would be able to perform actions that would save many people's lives."

Steven E. Nissen, M.D., F.A.C.C.

ACC/ACCF President, 2006 – 2007
Professor of Medicine and Interim Chairman, Department of Cardiovascular
Medicine, the Cleveland Clinic Foundation

www.acc.org



ACC Mission

The mission of the American College of Cardiology is to advocate for quality cardiovascular care—through education, research promotion, development and application of standards and guidelines—and to influence health care policy.

For more information about cardiology as a career and the American College of Cardiology, go to <http://www.acc.org>.

Cardiology Menu of Opportunities

- General clinical cardiology
- Interventional cardiology
- Nuclear cardiology
- Echocardiography
- Electrophysiology
- Computed tomography/magnetic resonance (CT/MR) cardiology
- Cardiovascular investigator/ academic research
- Industry research
- Heart failure and transplant cardiology
- Preventive cardiology
- Congenital heart disease
- Pediatric cardiology

