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# Tips and Tricks for the Interventional Cardiology Application Process

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# First Question: Do you really want to do this?

Best piece of advice I received when choosing a field:

1. Do you enjoy reading about it?
2. Do you think you will be good at it?
3. Is the most mundane aspect of the field something you will be interested in?





## Reasons not to do Interventional Cardiology:

- Long training- 8 post-graduate years
- Long hours
- Call- probably the most grueling of any field
- Occupational hazards
  - Radiation
  - Orthopedic issues
  - Sleep deprivation
- Tightening job market and declining salaries
- Family considerations
  - You will work the hardest when your family needs you the most





# Preparing for Interventional Training

- Show interest during your cath lab rotations
  - Do as many cases as possible, but not at the expense of your colleagues\*
  - You will be judged more critically on your pre- and post-procedure care of patients than your technical skills early on
  - Show up to all conferences
  - This is a team sport- be a team player
- Work hard in ALL of your rotations
  - Weak performance in other rotations is a red flag
  - Get as much imaging experience as you can
- Identify a mentor
  - Research
  - Be willing to make it a two-way street
  - The individual must mentor you clinically as well





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## TRAINING STATEMENT

# COCATS 4 Task Force 10: Training in Cardiac Catheterization



*Endorsed by the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions*

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- COCATS Level 1
  - 4 months in the CCL
  - 100 diagnostic cardiac catheterization cases
    - At least 50 involve coronary angiography
    - At least 25 involve hemodynamic assessment of valvular disease, pericardial disease
- COCATS Level 2
  - 6 months in the CCL
  - 300 diagnostic cardiac catheterization cases
  - 100 peripheral diagnostic cases (not carotid) if interesting in pursuing competency in peripheral angiography
- COCATS Level 3
  - Interventional Training





- Be comfortable and competent in diagnostic catheterization prior to starting interventional fellowship.
- Gain as much experience as possible in your last year of cardiology training prior to starting interventional training
- Hit the ground running!!!
- Detrimental to training program and trainee if too much time is spent early on “re-training” in diagnostic catheterization.





# Soul Searching: What Do I Want to Do?

- You can't do it all...
  - Definitely need to learn coronary intervention
  - It is the basis for all of interventional cardiology
  - Given smaller wires, devices, etc., more technically challenging than much of structural/peripheral
- But you should probably focus in something
  - Coronary/CHIP/CTO
  - Vascular
  - Structural
  - Research
- Setting
  - Academics
  - Practice

This is where you need to focus your search of programs  
Don't simply play the "name game"  
Try to target programs that match your specific interest





## What to Look For in a Training Program

- Will the program give you the clinical training that you want
  - Standard PCI yes. But CHIP/CTO vs. Vasc vs. Structural
  - Is the program 1 year or 2 year
    - Be wary of programs that offer all interventional training on one year
  - Do you have to reapply for the second year or guaranteed?
    - How successful are programs at placing fellows in advanced programs?
- Does the program have a track record of mentorship
  - Both research and clinical
- Are the fellows happy with the program
- Is the program actively engaged in finding you a job
- How successful is the program at job placement



# Tips and Tricks for the Interventional Cardiology Fellowship Application Process

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# Outline

- Interventional Cardiology: Is it for you?
- Preparation during General Cardiovascular Fellowship
- Career Decisions (subspecialty training, academic)
- How to Evaluate Training Programs
- General Information on Certifications
- What Programs look for in Trainees
- Preparing the Application
- How to Get Noticed
- Navigating the Process and Timeline/Accepting an Offer
- Application No No's



# How to Evaluate Training Programs

- For list of ACGME programs
  - <https://apps.acgme.org/ads/public/reports/report/1>
    - Program number and name
    - Address and email contact
    - Program Director
    - Accreditation status
- To determine if program participates in ERAS
  - <https://services.aamc.org/eras/erasstats/par/index.cfm>
- Get additional information from program website
- Unanswered questions contact program coordinator
- Confirm visa type is supported at the institution



**Interventional Cardiology Programs  
Academic Year 2017-2018  
United States**



*List of accredited programs within this specialty and those newly accredited programs with future effective dates*

Program Number / Name	Address	Program Director	Accreditation Status	Effective Date	Core/Related Program	Core/Related Specialty
[1523512113] Albany Medical Center Program	<b>Albany Medical Center</b> Mail Code 17 47 New Scotland Avenue Albany NY, 12208 Ph: (518) 262-5076 Fax: (518) 262-5082 snavelm@mail.amc.edu	Augustin DeLago, MD	Continued Accreditation	1/13/2017	[1403531248] Albany Medical Center Program Raymond P. Smith, MD smithR4@mail.amc.edu	Internal medicine
[1524121059] Albert Einstein Medical Center Program	<b>Albert Einstein Medical Center</b> 5501 Old York Road Levy Building, 3rd Floor, Room 3232 Philadelphia PA, 19141 Ph: (215) 456-5955 Fax: (215) 456-7926 morrisd@einstein.edu	Sean F. Janzer, MD	Continued Accreditation	1/13/2017	[1404111369] Albert Einstein Medical Center Program Glenn Eiger, MD medicine@einstein.edu	Internal medicine
[1524112061] Allegheny Health Network Medical Education Consortium (AGH) Program	<b>Allegheny General Hospital</b> Division of Interventional Cardiology 320 East North Avenue, 4 Fl, Snyder Pavilion Pittsburgh PA, 15212 Ph: (412) 359-6270 Fax: (412) 359-6292 Carolyn.Bowers@ahn.org	David M. Lasorda, DO	Continued Accreditation	1/13/2017	[1404111381] Allegheny Health Network Medical Education Consortium (AGH) Program James B. Reilly, MD, MS	Internal medicine
[1525613114] Aurora Health Care Program	<b>Aurora Sinai Medical Center</b> 945 N 12th St, PO Box 342 Milwaukee WI, 53201 Ph: (414) 219-7635 Fax: (414) 219-4539 rebecca.young@aurora.org	Tanvir Bajwa, MD	Continued Accreditation	1/13/2017	[1405621446] Aurora Health Care Program Richard Battiola, MD rebecca.young@aurora.org	Internal medicine
[1524821068] Baylor College of Medicine Program	<b>Baylor College of Medicine</b> Interventional Cardiology One Baylor Plaza, MS: BCM620 Houston TX, 77030 Ph: (713) 798-0284 Fax: (713) 798-0277 claudetw@bcm.edu	Nasser Lakkis, MD, MS	Continued Accreditation	1/13/2017	[1404821422] Baylor College of Medicine Program Richard Hamill, MD rhamill@bcm.edu	Internal medicine
[1524823067] Baylor College of Medicine/St Luke's Episcopal Hospital Program	<b>Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center</b> 6720 Bertner (MC 1-133) Houston TX, 77030 Ph: (832) 355-6676 Fax: (832) 355-8374 staylor3@stlukeshealth.org	Richard D. Fish, MD	Continued Accreditation	1/13/2017	[1404821422] Baylor College of Medicine Program Richard Hamill, MD rhamill@bcm.edu	Internal medicine



## Interventional Cardiology (Internal Medicine)

This is a **December Application Cycle** specialty. Applicants may begin applying and programs begin receiving applications starting December 1st.

**Program Statuses**  
**P - Participating**  
**NP - Not Participating**  
**NLA - No Longer Accepting applications**

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State	City	Program Name	ACGME ID	Status
AL	Birmingham	<a href="#">University of Alabama Medical Center Program</a>	1520121135	P
AR	Little Rock	<a href="#">University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Program</a>	1520422124	P
AZ	Phoenix	<a href="#">University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix Program</a>	1520321095	P
AZ	Tucson	<a href="#">University of Arizona Program</a>	1520312131	P
CA	Fresno	University of California (San Francisco)/Fresno Program	1520513164	P
CA	La Jolla	<a href="#">Scripps Clinic/Scripps Green Hospital Program</a>	1520521109	P
CA	La Jolla	<a href="#">University of California (San Diego) Program</a>	1520513121	P
CA	Los Angeles	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Program	1520521137	P
CA	Los Angeles	Kaiser Permanente Southern California (Los Angeles) Program	1520531002	NP
CA	Los Angeles	Los Angeles County-Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Program	1520521105	NP
CA	Los Angeles	<a href="#">UCLA Medical Center Program</a>	1520521004	P
CA	Los Angeles	<a href="#">University of Southern California/LAC+USC Medical Center Program</a>	1520512003	P
CA	Orange	University of California (Irvine) Program	1520513136	NP
CA	Sacramento	University of California Davis Health Program	1520521140	NP
CA	San Bernardino	University of California Riverside School of Medicine Program	1520514166	P
CA	San Francisco	University of California (San Francisco) Program	1520531086	P
CA	Stanford	<a href="#">Stanford University Program</a>	1520513005	P
CO	Aurora	<a href="#">University of Colorado Program</a>	1520721101	P
CT	Bridgeport	<a href="#">Bridgeport Hospital/Yale University Program</a>	1520821099	P
CT	Farmington	<a href="#">University of Connecticut Program</a>	1520821159	P
CT	Hartford	University of Connecticut/Hartford Hospital Program	1520821081	P
CT	New Haven	Yale-New Haven Medical Center Program	1520813117	NP
DC	Washington	<a href="#">George Washington University Program</a>	1521021006	P
DC	Washington	<a href="#">Georgetown University Hospital/Washington Hospital Center Program</a>	1521011127	P
DE	Newark	<a href="#">Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University/Christiana Care Health Services Program</a>	1520921155	P
FL	Gainesville	University of Florida Program	1521113108	NP
FL	Jacksonville	<a href="#">University of Florida College of Medicine Jacksonville Program</a>	1521131098	P
FL	Miami	<a href="#">Jackson Memorial Hospital/Jackson Health System Program</a>	1521121008	P
FL	Miami Beach	<a href="#">Mount Sinai Medical Center of Florida Program</a>	1521112133	P
FL	Tampa	<a href="#">University of South Florida Morsani Program</a>	1521131148	P
GA	Atlanta	Emory University Program	1521231009	NP



# General Information on Certifications

- ABIM certification in interventional cardiology requires:
  - ABIM certification in Cardiovascular Disease
  - Completion of an ACGME or RCPSC program
    - 12 month clinical fellowship
    - Procedural requirements (250 or greater)
    - Receive satisfactory ratings of overall clinical competence
- ABIM certification in Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD)
  - ABIM certification in Cardiovascular Disease or Pediatrics
  - Completion of a 24 month ACGME program
    - ACHD fellowship programs will be available through the ACGME on or after July 1, 2019
- Valid medical license/Pass the certification exam



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# General Information on Certifications

- ABVM endovascular exam: fellowship training pathway
  - Completion of a formal ABIM-accredited fellowship that included training in peripheral interventional procedures.
  - Performance of at least 100 diagnostic and 50 therapeutic peripheral interventions (1/2 primary operator)
  - Written attestation by the fellowship program director
  - Counting of cases follow the guidelines outlined in the ACC COCATS-2
- Vascular Medicine
  - 12 months of training typically during a third or fourth year, solely devoted to vascular medicine



# What Programs look for in Trainees

- No single type of individual is favored
- Most programs seek to train individuals who have demonstrated the utmost commitment to the field of cardiovascular medicine through clinical care, research, teaching, innovation, or other leadership activities
- Demonstrated achievements or potential
- Diversity is positive



# Preparing the Application

- Know the application deadlines
- Prepare a flawless application
- LOR are extremely important
  - Verbal commitment to write a supportive letter and submit on time
  - Able to comment on your cath lab skills
    - Cath lab or IC program director
  - Selected non-clinical references (research, advocacy, etc.)
- Personal statement reflects goals
- CV is organized and up to date
  - Name bolded on publications
  - Highlight post graduate achievements



# How to Get Noticed

- For programs on the top of your list
  - Email the program director and coordinator when your application is submitted
  - Communicate important updates to your file
    - Publications, presentation at national meeting, visa status
  - Have a mentor advocate for you through email or a personal call



# Navigating the Process and Timeline

- IC does not have a match program
  - Timeline for each program differs
  - # positions and chance of acceptance varies by program
  - Some programs do not interview external candidates
  - Interview dates vary considerably (Jan- April)
- Open line of communication with PDs and coordinators during the process
  - Offers and replies are generally made quickly after interviews
  - Do not back out of a commitment in the absence of extenuating circumstances



# Application Process No No's

- Never provide misleading or false information
- Proofread!
- Do not accept a position you don't intent to keep
  - Cancel remaining interviews
  - Withdraw from other programs
  - Ask for decision extension or decline the position



# Dr. Shah's Application Pet Peeves

- Frequent emails
- Cut and paste emails
- Emails referring to the wrong training program
- “Dear PD” emails
- Emails with name misspelled
- Any misspelling on application, esp personal statement
  - The personal statement can only hurt you





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