



Every training program across the country has risen to meet the unique challenges of patient care, research, and education in the COVID-19 era. As we work to showcase our training programs and recruit the next class of fellows, we need to prepare to do this in a new environment. Traditionally, interviews are conducted in person, allowing applicants to interact personally with faculty and fellows, gauge the overall culture of a program, and assess how well a program’s mission aligns with their personal and professional interests. However, we realize that the current environment and the unpredictability of the fall interview cycle will lead to many questions as to how to best approach the upcoming recruitment cycle.

The American College of Cardiology Program Directors and Graduate Medical Educators Section fully supports virtual interviews for all programs during the upcoming recruitment season, in alignment with recommendations from the AAMC, AAIM, and NRMP.

We do this out of a commitment to our applicants and our training programs, realizing there are public health and external factors affecting safety and the ability to interview in-person, as well as a significant variability in local conditions and disparate effects of the pandemic by region which may lead to an uneven playing field. This recommendation maintains applicant equity and is inclusive for all applicants. Our recommendation to uniformly engage all applicants virtually will help support the integrity and fairness of recruitment in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic while respecting the autonomy of applicants.

Related Links:

AAMC, *Conducting Interviews During Coronavirus Pandemic [online]* Accessed 6/2/2020, <https://www.aamc.org/what-we-do/mission-areas/medical-education/conducting-interviews-during-coronavirus-pandemic>.

NRMP, *Reports from the Coalition for Physician Accountability [online]* Accessed 6/2/2020, <https://www.nrmp.org/coalition-physician-accountability-documents/>.

AAIM Guidance for 2020-2021 application season [online] accessed 6/3/2020 <https://www.im.org/resources/ume-gme-program-resources/resources-residency-application2021>

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The mission of the American College of Cardiology and the American College of Cardiology Foundation is to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health.