



BRIGHAM AND
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL
TEACHING AFFILIATE

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



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 I
 - 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	Albany Medical Center 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	Albert Einstein Medical Center 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	Allegheny General Hospital 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	Aurora Sinai Medical Center 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	Baylor College of Medicine 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	Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center 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	University of Alabama Medical Center Program	1520121135	P
AR	Little Rock	University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Program	1520422124	P
AZ	Phoenix	University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix Program	1520321095	P
AZ	Tucson	University of Arizona Program	1520312131	P
CA	Fresno	University of California (San Francisco)/Fresno Program	1520513164	P
CA	La Jolla	Scripps Clinic/Scripps Green Hospital Program	1520521109	P
CA	La Jolla	University of California (San Diego) Program	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	UCLA Medical Center Program	1520521004	P
CA	Los Angeles	University of Southern California/LAC+USC Medical Center Program	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	Stanford University Program	1520513005	P
CO	Aurora	University of Colorado Program	1520721101	P
CT	Bridgeport	Bridgeport Hospital/Yale University Program	1520821099	P
CT	Farmington	University of Connecticut Program	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	George Washington University Program	1521021006	P
DC	Washington	Georgetown University Hospital/Washington Hospital Center Program	1521011127	P
DE	Newark	Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University/Christiana Care Health Services Program	1520921155	P
FL	Gainesville	University of Florida Program	1521113108	NP
FL	Jacksonville	University of Florida College of Medicine Jacksonville Program	1521131098	P
FL	Miami	Jackson Memorial Hospital/Jackson Health System Program	1521121008	P
FL	Miami Beach	Mount Sinai Medical Center of Florida Program	1521112133	P
FL	Tampa	University of South Florida Morsani Program	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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