Career Paths After CV Fellowship: How to Best Tailor Your Training to Your Goals

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Goal:
• Proceed to the next step
• Get into the best program you can
Your Career
What is important to you in a career?

And what are you good at?
What is important to you in a career?

Be introspective and make adjustments as you go...
Ideal Career
How to maximize your time and skills during fellowship

• Train where there is experiential diversity
• Understand what is included in your fellowship training structure
• Seek advise early about career paths and unique opportunities
How to maximize your time and skills during fellowship

• Think ahead about time management
  – Additional imaging training: know the requirements
  – Research time: how much, when and with whom?
  – Additional educational/skills training
  – Subspecialty fellowships

• Create a proposal in early 2nd year about how the next years will look
  – review with your chief, PD and mentors
Advanced Subspecialty Training in CV Disease

**ACGME accredited fellowships:**
- Interventional Cardiology: 1 year
- Electrophysiology: 2 years
- Heart Failure: 1 year
- Adult Congenital Heart Disease: 2 years

**Non ACGME accredited fellowships:**
- Echocardiography
- Nuclear Cardiology
- Critical Care Cardiology
- Sports Cardiology
- Women’s Heart Health
- Vascular Medicine
Selecting a Clinical Practice:
What is important to you?

- **Type of Work and Setting**
  - Clinical ↔ Investigative
  - If clinical: Private ↔ Academic
  - Disease specific?

- **Geography**
  - Region/city/rural/urban
  - Patient population
  - Referral network

- **Facilities:**
  - advanced procedures/therapies available, surgical options

- **What MD supports are in place?**
  - Nursing, administrative
  - Professional development

- **Culture of the practice**
  - Colleagues, practice patterns, practice priorities and values

- **Compensation model**
  - Know fair market value
  - How is non-clinical work valued?

- **Work / Non-work life balance**
  - Impact on significant others and family; social network
Can we compare?

PRIVATE PRACTICE

• Affiliation with a hospital(s)
• Clinically focused; high volume
• Inpatient rounds/outpatients, return to hospital end of the day/echo and/or stress interpretation
• Generally less or no research time
• Often no or little residents/fellow coverage and teaching
• Often fewer regular conferences
• Compensation generally higher, less overhead, fee for service model

ACADEMIC PRACTICE

• Affiliation with a medical school
• Clinical and ‘Other’
• Variable rounding structures/imaging responsibilities
• +/- Protected research time
  – (Grant or philanthropy supported)
• Often resident/fellow coverage and teaching responsibilities
• More conferencing
• Compensation may be lower; accounts for greater overhead
Research Careers

• Additional skill sets needed?
  – Statistic, MPH, epidemiology, etc.
• Identify Mentors
• Research support resources
• Apply for grants and awards
  – Critically important skill regardless of career path
• Plan enough time...
Other Opportunities

• Computational Science/IT
• Industry
• Educational Careers
• Global Cardiology
• Hospital Administration
We don’t always get it right the first time...
We don’t always get it right the first time… but hopefully we learn something along the way
Lessons learned…

• Think ahead, proactively plan your time
• Be introspective and don’t be afraid to make adjustments along the way.
• Get lots of advice and understand challenges
• Know who your mentors are and will be
• Embrace what you are well-trained to do
• Recognize what is most important to you and what makes you happy
Thank You!

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