The Cardiovascular Disease and Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology Competency-Based Alternative Training Pathway
# The Future of Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Work Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>ACC Perspective and Liaison Role</th>
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</table>
| Jim Arrighi, MD, FACC          | Chair, Competency Management Committee  
                                     Member, Lifelong Learning Oversight Committee                                             |
| Lisa Mendes, MD, FACC          | Co-Chair, Competency Management Committee  
                                     ABIM/ACC Competency-Based Pilot Leadership Team (pilot site)                              |
| Katie Berlacher, MD, FACC      | Member, Lifelong Learning Oversight Committee  
                                     ABIM/ACC Competency-Based Pilot Leadership Team                                             |
| Julie Damp, MD, FACC           | Immediate Past Chair, CV Training Section  
                                     Member, Lifelong Learning Oversight Committee  
                                     ABIM/ACC Competency-Based Pilot Leadership Team (pilot site)                              |
| CA Sivaram, MD, FACC           | Chair, ABIM/ACC Competency-Based Pilot Leadership Team (pilot site)  
                                     Member, Lifelong Learning Oversight Committee                                            |
| Eric Williams, MD, MACC        | Immediate Past Chair, Competency Management Committee  
                                     ABIM/ACC Competency-Based Pilot Leadership Team (pilot site)                              |
| Gaby Weissman, MD, FACC        | Chair, Program Directors and Graduate Medical Educators Section                                |
| Ada Stefanescu Schmidt, MD     | Immediate Past Chair, Fellows in Training Section  
                                     Member, Lifelong Learning Oversight Committee                                            |

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[Logo: American College of Cardiology and Heart Rhythm Society]
The Case for Change: Why Now?

• Evolution in competency-based medical education (CBME)
• Educational innovation in undergraduate medical education (UME) and graduate medical education (GME)
• Vulnerability of GME funding especially within subspecialties
• Inflexibility of training paradigm (e.g., work-life integration)
• Potential impact on diversity and popularity of specialty
The Case for Change: 
Alignment with Other Initiatives in GME

• Transplant Hepatology (TH) Project
  – 2 yrs general GI + 1 yr TH = GI and TH certification

• ACC IM-CV Pilot Project
  - Introduce CVD rotations during third year of IM

• ACGME IM-2035 initiative
  – Delineation between residency and fellowship blurs
  – Flexibility to allow increased subspecialty experience in residency
  – Ability to train in “non-clinical” areas (policy, administration, law)
Goals

• Enhance transitions
• Early career focus
• Decrease cost of training
• Decrease length of training
• Improve diversity in workforce
A Model of CBME w/ Enhanced Flexibility in Fellowship Year 3

**Current Model**
- IM (3)
- Gen Card (3)
- e.g. EP (2), ACCHD (2), HF (1)

**CBME Model Proposal**

**A**
- IM (3)
- Gen Card (2)
- Career Focused
- Optional

A or B based on CBME assessments during Gen Card

**B**
- IM (3)
- Gen Card (3)
- Optional
- Optional

Heart Rhythm Society

American College of Cardiology

Advancing Heart Care Worldwide
Examples of How This Might Look

**EP Training**
- IM (3)
- Gen Card (2)
- EP1
- EP2

**Interventional Cardiology**
- IM (3)
- Card (2)
- IC
- Optional structural, etc

**CCU, MMI, Geriatrics**
- IM (3)
- Card (2)
- Focus area

**Distant Future?**
- IM (2)
- Card
ACGME Advancing Innovation in Residency Education (AIRE)

Goals:

• Explore novel approaches and training in GME

• Attain educational and clinical outcomes through innovative structures and processes in resident and fellow education.
AIRE Proposal:
CVD and CCEP Competency Based Alternative Clinical Pathway
Program Eligibility

• Institutions with both CVD and CCEP training programs and a status of continued accreditation with the ACGME. Trainees at institutions without a CCEP training program are currently not eligible for this training track.
• Each participating institution provides a faculty lead.
• Proposal approved by home institution’s CVD and CCEP program directors.
• Proposal approved by the home institution’s Designated Institutional Official (DIO) following approval of the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC).
• Application completion and approval by ACC/HRS Pathway Oversight Work Group.
Selection of Trainees

• General CVD fellow declares interest in this program at end of Year 1 CVD training.
• CVD milestones assessments should demonstrate a favorable trajectory of progress at end of Year 1 and/or mid-year of Year 2.
• Candidates in the 2+2 pathway may be selected through the NRMP or out of the match depending on the accepting CCEP institution’s preference.
• Continued suitability of a fellow for this training model should be reassessed in the spring of Year 2 of CVD fellowship.
Rotation Descriptions

• **Years 1-2**

  COCATS Level I rotations, select Level II supporting rotations may be possible in some programs.

• **Years 3-4**

  CCEP programs are encouraged to incorporate rotations/experiences that are specific to the trainee’s career goals and count towards general cardiology and CCEP (e.g. research, ACHD, imaging).
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rotation</th>
<th>Year 1 CVD</th>
<th>Year 2 CVD</th>
<th>Year 3 CCEP</th>
<th>Year 4 CCEP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consultations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiac Intensive Care Unit</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transthoracic Echocardiography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stress Echocardiography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transesophageal Echocardiography</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heart Failure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiac Catheterization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuclear Cardiology</td>
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<td>Research</td>
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<td>2*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Congenital Heart Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiac Computed Tomography/Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular Disease Prevention/ Vascular Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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<td>1*</td>
<td>2*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinic</td>
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Half day clinic once a week all four years with the third and fourth years solely in CCEP clinic

*Rotations could count towards both CVD and CCEP fellowship.
Assessment & Monitoring: Learning from each other

• Regular meetings of participating CVD and CCEP as a group to share successes and challenges
ACC/HRS CVD to EP Alternative Training Pathway
Work Group Members

• Lisa Mendes, MD, FACC
• Gaby Weissman, MD, FACC
• Usha Tedrow, MD, MSc, FHRS
• Jose Joglar, MD, FACC, FHRS
• Jim Cheung, MD, FACC, FHRS
• Judith Mackall, MD, FHRS
• Julie Damp, MD, FACC
• Ada Stefanescu Schmidt, MD, FACC
• Rhea Pimentel, MD, FACC, FHRS
Application Due Date

• Identified program lead will submit online application by April 11, 2022.