

## **Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship FAQs**

### **Application Process/Inquiries**

1. What visas does the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program support?  
The Cardiovascular Medicine Fellowship Program at the University of Missouri-Columbia supports J1 visas.
2. Do I have to apply through ERAS or can I submit an application directly?  
We ONLY accept applications for fellowship through ERAS.
3. What information should I submit to have a complete ERAS application?
  - A. In order to have a complete application for the fellowship program you will need to submit the following:
    - Current CV
    - Personal statement
    - Three current letters of recommendation (one must be from your program director)
    - Copy of ECFMG certificate (for Foreign Medical Graduates)
    - USMLE transcripts
  - B. When is the application deadline?  
Review of applications begins 4-6 weeks after ERAS opens.
  - C. How long is the review process for applications?  
Applications are reviewed as soon as ERAS releases them for review. The time it takes to review all the applications depends on the number of applications received.

### **Interviews**

6. When do interviews occur?  
Currently, we interview in September and early October.
7. How will I be notified if I receive an interview?  
Applicants are notified via e-mail from the program fellowship coordinator. Since we interview 30 or more applicants it can be difficult to find dates that accommodate everyone's schedule so these dates are first come, first serve. (See Question 9 for the interview process).
8. Will I be notified if I did NOT receive an interview?  
No. We do not notify applicants if they do not receive an invitation to interview.

9. What is the interview process?

**In 2021, interviews will be conducted virtually.**

If you are selected for an interview you will receive an e-mail from the fellowship program coordinator with date options. Typically, we pick dates on a Friday, which are filled on a first come, first serve basis. Once you have selected a date and e-mailed your choice to the coordinator, you will receive a confirmation that your date has been secured.

The virtual interview day schedule is as follows:

8:00 - 8:40 a.m. Welcome to all candidates with fellowship program director and fellowship coordinator. This session includes a video about University of Missouri School of Medicine and Columbia, a slideshow about the program, and Q&A with the program director.

8:40 - 11:40 a.m. Each candidate will have an assigned time for a 20 minute interview with a panel of three (3) faculty.

11:40 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. All candidates attend a Q&A with the chief fellows

10. How long is the interview day?

The interview day starts at 8:00 a.m. and typically ends by 12:30 pm.

11. How will I get to the hospital the day of the interview?

**(Does not apply in 2021 season due to virtual interview).**

You may drive yourself or take a cab to the hospital the day of the interview. If you stay at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel (See Question 18 for more information about hotels) there will be a shuttle service that will take you to the hospital and back to the hotel after the interviews. You'll want to check with the front desk for the time as the coordinator arranges the departure time and arrival time for the hotel shuttle to the hospital.

12. How many fellows does the program take each year?

Currently, we take 5 clinical fellows per year. There are a total of 15 fellows; 5 in each year.

13. After the interviews how do I know if I was selected for the fellowship program?

The University of Missouri-Columbia Cardiovascular Medicine Fellowship Program participates in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). In order to be selected candidates MUST register with the NRMP: <http://www.nrmp.org/>

We follow the guidelines and rules of the NRMP. We submit our match list by the designated deadline. The match list typically appears mid-December.

14. What happens after I am selected for the fellowship program?

If you match with us, you'll receive a letter from the Program Director. This letter is a written agreement that you are accepting the position. NOTE: This is not an official contract but is rather an offer letter so both parties have something in writing. In approximately February of the year you start your fellowship, you will receive an e-mail and packet from the HR credentialing coordinator. It is very important that you fill out the contents of the packet and return the information back to HR as quickly as possible to prevent delay in your fellowship start date. It is also important to keep the fellowship coordinator updated on any address or e-mail changes you make before starting your fellowship at the University of Missouri-Columbia. You must obtain a Training License or a Permanent License in Missouri prior to starting your fellowship.

**Travel and Hotel Accommodations**

15. How do I get to Columbia, Missouri?

There are many options when it comes to traveling to Columbia, Missouri.

Firstly, you can drive to Columbia. Columbia, Missouri is midway between Kansas City, Missouri and St. Louis, Missouri on I-70.

Secondly, Columbia, Missouri does have a regional airport only 15 minutes from Columbia with flights to and from Chicago and Dallas. You can fly into the airport and take a cab or hotel shuttle (depending on the hotel) to reach the hotel.

Lastly, you can choose to fly into Kansas City International Airport (MCI) or Lambert - St. Louis International Airport (STL). Both airports are approximately a 1 hour and 45 minute to 2 hour drive to Columbia. You can rent a car, take a cab, or use Mo-X or E-Z Go (shuttle services) (See Question 16 for more information on Mo-X) to get to Columbia.

16. What are Mo-X and E-Z Go and how to I book them?

Mo-X is a schedule ground transportation service between Columbia and Kansas City and St. Louis Airports. Their website is: <https://www.moexpress.com/tac/default.aspx>

Phone Numbers for Mo-X is 573-256-1991 or toll free 877-669-4826, E-Z Go is 573-817-1000. To book a shuttle you can either call them or reserve a shuttle on-line. This must be done at least 24-hours in advance. Pricing and a schedule of times can be found on-line. You must be ready by the time stated as they run on a tight schedule.

17. What if I want to take a cab or taxi?

There are many taxi and/or cab services in Columbia. Here are a couple:

Terry's Taxi-573-441-1414

Tiger Taxi - 573-474-3222

18. What hotels are available in Columbia?

Columbia has many hotels available to stay at. If you choose to stay at the Courtyard Marriott they have discounted deals for applicants through the University of Missouri-Columbia. You must notify the coordinator if you are going to stay at the Courtyard so the coordinator can notify the hotel and provide you with the code for the discount. Below is a short list of the hotels available with contact information. Additionally, the Courtyard does have a shuttle service to Columbia Regional Airport and to the hospital.

Courtyard Marriott – 573-443-8000

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/fact-sheet/travel/COUCY>

Hampton Inn and Suites Columbia (at the University of Missouri) – 573-214-1222

<http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=COUUMHX>

Stoney Creek Inn – 800-659-2220

<http://www.stoneycreekinn.com/hotel/travel/columbia/home.do>

19. What certifications/boards will I be prepared for when I finish my fellowship?

All fellows will have met requirements for the board exam in Cardiovascular Disease by the end of their fellowship. Fellows may utilize elective rotations to complete the requirements for additional certification/boards in the following areas: Echocardiography, Cardiac CTA, and Nuclear Cardiology.

20. Does the University of Missouri-Columbia have other sub-specialty Cardiovascular Disease fellowships such as Interventional Cardiology or Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology fellowships? The University of Missouri-Columbia has a one year fellowship for one fellow in Interventional Cardiology. A two year fellowship for Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology provides training for two fellows, one per year of the electrophysiology program.

21. Is the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program at the University of Missouri accredited? Yes, our Cardiovascular Medicine Fellowship Program as well as the additional fellowships in Interventional Cardiology and Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology are accredited through the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)

[http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/newsRoom/newsRm\\_acGlance.asp](http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/newsRoom/newsRm_acGlance.asp)

The ACGME reviews the program annually to ensure we are in compliance with program requirements set forth by the accrediting body. The ACGME and review committees are committed to improving the quality of resident/fellow education in the United States

23. What is accreditation?

Accreditation ensures a basic level of quality in the education you receive from an institution and ensures your degree will be recognized.

24. How does accreditation affect me?

Accreditation is the tool used to monitor, assess, and evaluate the standards and quality of education you receive. Additionally, many hospitals in the United States and Canada will NOT accept someone who did NOT attend an accredited medical institution.

25. What educational experiences can I expect?

See "Conferences" under Fellowship Links

26. What electives can I take?

Electives in Adult Congenital Heart Disease and Advanced Heart Failure are available through an agreement through Washington University in St. Louis. In addition, elective time may be used to obtain more training in Cardiac Catheterization, Echocardiography, Advanced Imaging, Nuclear Cardiology or Research.

27. Can I complete an elective at another institution?

Yes, fellows may complete electives at other institutions with approval of the Program Director. Electives at outside institutions must fulfill an educational need not available within our program. While we have didactics in many areas we don't necessarily have the patient volume to support certain rotations such as adult congenital heart disease and advanced heart failure, which are available by agreement with Washington University in St. Louis.

28. How am I evaluated?

Fellows are evaluated on the ABIM Core Competencies after each rotation. They are also evaluated on their progress by the clinical faculty on the Clinical Competency Committee every 6 months using the ACGME Milestones.

29. What is the call schedule like?

The program utilizes a night float system, which is an in-house responsibility that changes every two weeks fulfilled by first and second year fellows. The night float fellow is responsible for all consults and CICU patients between 6 pm and 7 am daily. Home call occurs during the second and third year of fellowship for emergent catheterization procedures and for emergent echocardiograms. The fellow on at-home call provides backup for the night float fellow when needed. Sleeping facilities at the University Hospital are available. The fellow has an Attending who is also on call and provides supervision and advise.

30. How many Cardiology faculty are there and what are their specialties?

We have a total of 19 clinical faculty members: Seven interventional cardiology, six clinical cardiac electrophysiology, and six non-invasive/general cardiology faculty members. In addition, faculty from Nuclear Medicine, Vascular Medicine, and Pediatric Cardiology oversee rotations in their respective areas of expertise.

31. What is Columbia, Missouri like?

See "Columbia" under Fellowship Links