

Baylor College of Medicine

Nuts and bolts:

Do you participate in The Match? If not, what is the best way for applicants to contact you?

Yes, NRMP Program Code: 1706142F0

Do you offer a one-year fellowship to prospective fellows who have already completed an ACGME-accredited internal medicine subspecialty?

Yes, but we currently only accept candidates who have completed a cardiology fellowship.

What department houses your fellowship? Is cardiology represented in the program leadership?

The Department of Internal Medicine and the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine. We have two associate program directors, one intensivist and one cardiologist. Our faculty includes intensivists from both medicine and surgery along with cardiologists.

What is the typical training background of your CCM fellows (E.g. EM, anesthesia, IM, and IM subspecialties)? Have you trained cardiologists in the past?

This is a newly accredited program, so we have not trained any fellows, yet. However, we designed the program for fellows who have completed a Cardiology training program. The institution currently has pulmonary critical care and surgical critical care fellowships.

ICU-specifics:

What does a typical year in your fellowship look like?

Our goal is to be both flexible in our curriculum (based on each fellow's prior training) while also ensuring that the fellow is well prepared to manage cardiac patients in the ICU and is eligible to sit for Critical Care Boards. To this end, we require 6 months of training in the Medical or Cardiac ICUs, but this requirement can be reduced by up to 3 months (month to month exchange) if prior acceptable MICU/CVICU experience was obtained during the fellows' cardiology fellowship. In addition, fellows complete 3 months in non-medical ICUs (surgical and neuro ICUs), and have 3-6 months of elective time, which can be spent on Anesthesia/PACU, Advanced Heart Failure, Critical Care Consults, Bronchoscopy, Pulmonary Hypertension and Lung Transplant, Respiratory Physiology, Advanced Imaging, Interventional Cardiology, Post-Cardiac Transplant, Post-LVAD Management, or other areas unique to the fellows' future practice goals.

What are the unique aspects of the ICU training at BUMC?

We have a very robust advanced HF program with all temporary mechanical support devices, a large ECMO program and extremely busy program with diverse patient populations. Fellows will spend time in all subspecialty ICUs including MICU, CVCC, CMCC, BMT, NCC and Trauma ICU.

What characteristics are you looking for when selecting fellows?

They must have graduated from an ACGME accredited cardiology fellowship program.

What dedicated conferences are fellows encouraged to attend or present at?

Critical care conference, advanced HF conf (when pertinent to ICU care), ECMO conference and PH conference.

Cardiology-specific training:

Can you describe the balance between medical and surgical cardiac critical care exposure?

The curriculum is structured in such a way that the fellow will be eligible to sit for the ABIM critical care boards. At least 6 months are spent in Medical ICUs, 2 months are spent in Surgical ICUs.

Do fellows participate in the management of patients on advanced mechanical support devices?

Absolutely - all Impella types, Protek Duo, ECMO, IABP

Wellness:

How does your program support fellows' job search during a busy clinical year?

Fellows are permitted to take time away from the program to go on job interviews. This time does not reduce their vacation or other conference time. Additionally, fellows are supported both financially and in time away from the program to attend national conferences for both education and networking.

There can be a tension between ample ICU exposure and wellness. What does your program do to promote wellness?

We have structured our program, so that fellows get a great critical care experience without working excessive hours. Our goal is for fellows to have at least 1 and sometimes 2 days off each week. Night shifts are scheduled as a 2 week block, so that fellows aren't required to constantly transition between days and nights. Fellows are permitted and encouraged to use their vacation time (we provide 4 weeks) and to take time off for medical, dental, and mental health appointments and family emergencies. We are not reliant on fellows to cover our services, so fellows are always able to call off if they are too ill or fatigued to provide patient care.

What else would you like to share about your program with potential applicants?

The fellow will rotate through every major subspecialty ICU; there are no deficits in exposure. We have an ELSO designated Platinum ECMO program. We have a robust HF heart, lung, liver, kidney transplant programs. BUMC is a level 1 trauma center with > 100k visits annually of which 15% need ICU admission.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact our program coordinator, Cynthia Hernandez, at cynthia.hernandez2@bswhealth.org.