**Duke Program Highlight**

**Nuts and bolts**:

**Do you participate in The Match?**

Yes!

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

Yes, we are a 1-year fellowship for those who have already completed a 2+ year fellowship in another ACGME-accredited specialty.

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

Our fellowship is under Pulmonary Allergy and Critical Care Medicine. We collaborate heavily with anesthesia-critical care and cardiothoracic anesthesia in fellows education.

**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?**

Our fellows skew heavily toward cardiologists, though other specialties represented in our graduates are emergency medicine, infectious disease, and nephrology.

**ICU-specifics**:

**What does a typical year in your fellowship look like?**

This is a heavily clinical fellowship with 11 months clinical, 1 month vacation.

**What are the unique aspects of the ICU training at Duke?**

Our clinical training is rigorous and diverse in both procedures and disciplines. Critical care fellows will graduate with skills to intubate and place chest tubes, which are not skills universal to every medicine ICU in academia. We are also a major lung and heart transplant center, so fellows will graduate proficient in VA and VV ECMO.

**What characteristics are you looking for when selecting fellows?**

Due to this being only a 1-year fellowship and the clinical rigor, we look for fellows are ready to hit the ground running - ability to perform basic internal medicine procedures (lines, paras, LPs) are a must. Due to this also being a multidisciplinary fellowship, we look for fellows who are adaptable to the variety of work environments they will be rotating through (academic vs community, medical vs surgical ICUs).

**What dedicated conferences are fellows encouraged to attend or present at?** In terms of didactic conferences as part of fellowship training, we have a weekly multidisciplinary conference for all critical care fellows at Duke. Additionally, we have critical care grand rounds, MICU case conference, MICU M&M, and ECMO grand rounds. In terms of national/international conferences, we do not have a particular conference that we encourage fellows to attend due to the diverse background of our trainees. Rather, trainees will attend conferences that best suite their interest/subspecialty (AHA, Chest, etc.).

**Cardiology-specific training**:

**Are there any cardiac critical care-directed rotations in your fellowship (for example, V-A ECMO, CTICU, or cardiac anesthesia rotations)?**

Fellows will rotate through the CT-ICU, where VA ECMO and LVADs are managed. This is a mandatory rotation. In addition, there are electives in pulmonary vascular disease and TEE.

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

Fellows will spend 6 months in the medical intensive care unit and at least 1 month in the CT-ICU.

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

Yes, MCS is managed in the CT-ICU.

**Wellness**:

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

We attempt to schedule lighter, non-ICU rotations in the fall when job search or sub-subspecialty fellowship interviews are happening. Fellows are also free to trade shifts amongst themselves (this includes the pool of pulmonary/critical care fellows as well) to accommodate their schedules.

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

In the medical ICU where there are 2 fellows during the day, fellows have alternating "long" calls and allowing the other to leave early if the day is light and there are no active issues. Additionally, next academic year, we will be switching MICU rotations from 4-week block to a 2-week block.

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

Although the critical care-medicine fellowship is relatively new (ACGME-accredited since 2021), our fellowship functions smoothly alongside a well-established pulmonary/critical care fellowship. The collaboration among CCM, PCCM, and anesthesia-critical care makes this fellowship truly a multifaceted experience.

For further information, do not hesitate to reach out to our program coordinator, Traci Womble, at [traci.womble@duke.edu.](mailto:traci.womble@duke.edu)