

FAQs for Pediatric Cardiology Trainees

1. What is the SPCTPD and how can it help me as a pediatric cardiology fellow?

The Society of Pediatric Cardiology Training Program Directors is a non-profit organization that represents all pediatric cardiology fellowships. Its mission is to promote, maintain, and pursue excellence in the training of pediatric cardiologists (details at www.spctpd.com) by providing resources to training program directors and by acting as a liaison between other societies such as the Joint Council in Congenital Heart Disease, the Council of Pediatric Subspecialties, the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

SPCTPD also aims to provide information for fellows to help them with career planning and development. In order to do so, there is a subcommittee within SPCTPD (the Fellow Resource and Development Committee) that focuses on the development of a common platform with easy access to resources for fellows. This committee, under the supervision of the SPCTPD board, is spearheaded by a SPCTPD member with fellow representatives from the various organizations and independent fellow representatives appointed by the SPCTPD.

The committee will focus on providing access to resources such as:

- Educational initiatives
- Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) initiatives
- Presentations on career development, building a CV/Educator's Portfolio, writing an abstract, manuscripts, etc
- Information regarding how to find fourth year fellowships and jobs
- Updates on education and workforce issues

2. Are there any free society memberships for pediatric cardiology fellows?

- a. ACC: Yes, ACC (American College of Cardiology) membership is **free** to all fellows-in-training (FITs) enrolled in an ACGME accredited training program; if you have not yet obtained your free membership, please contact your program director to be enrolled
- b. AHA: Yes, in recent years, the AHA (American Heart Association) has provided **free** membership to fellows in their *final year of pediatric cardiology training* at an ACGME accredited training program; if you have not yet obtained your free membership and you're in your final year of training, please contact your program director
- c. AAP: No, AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) membership is not free for pediatric cardiology trainees. However, the dues for fellowship trainees are deeply discounted and you have access to many AAP resources. Trainee membership is currently **\$108 per year**; visit <http://shop.aap.org/aap-membership/>

3. What resources come with fellow membership in these organizations?

- a. ACC membership includes:

- i. Online and print access to *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* as well as all sub-journals (*JACC Heart Failure, JACC Cardiovascular Interventions, JACC Clinical Electrophysiology, JACC Cardiovascular Imaging*)
 - ii. Discounted membership to the Annual Scientific Sessions
 - iii. Complementary membership to the 16 ACC Member Sections, which includes the Adult Congenital and Pediatric Cardiology (ACPC) Section
 - iv. Opportunities to become involved in ACC at a national level including applying for a FIT position on ACC member councils or committees
 - v. Opportunities to network with professional peers on a local level through involvement in your ACC state chapter
 - vi. Eligibility to apply for travel awards to help fund travel to Annual Scientific Sessions
 - vii. Access to funding opportunities for research
 - viii. Access to mentoring opportunities (see below)
 - ix. Opportunities to publish on the Fellows-in-Training page in JACC
 - x. Opportunities to develop and publish case challenge, abstract or hot topic submissions to ACC.org on the Adult Congenital and Pediatric Cardiology section of the website
 - xi. Opportunities to get involved in ACC Legislative Efforts and eligibility for travel awards to attend the Annual Legislative Conference
 - xii. Opportunities to participate in the annual National Congenital Heart Disease Lobby Day
 - xiii. Involvement with ACC QI efforts and projects, including metric development, data collection, and collaborative QI
- b. AHA membership includes:
- i. Affiliation with one of the 16 scientific councils (for example, Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young)
 - ii. Discounted registration for the Scientific Sessions, specialty conferences, and symposia
 - iii. Complimentary access to Science On Demand products
 - iv. Discounts on AHA journal subscriptions and Wiley-Blackwell books
 - v. Access to the online AHA Learning Library (for an additional fee)
 - vi. Trainee membership includes discounted article publication charges for accepted articles in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*
 - vii. Personally tailored email updates of subspecialty content
 - viii. Opportunities to apply for scholarships and travel grants to AHA scientific meetings
 - ix. Waived application fee for the AHA research grant
 - x. Access to mentoring and early career development opportunities
 - xi. Please see <https://my.americanheart.org> for more information (click on "Membership," then "Student/Trainee")

- c. AAP membership includes opportunities to:
 - i. Stay current with the latest in pediatrics and infectious diseases with access to Red Book® Online, Pediatrics (print and online), AAP News (print and online), eBreaking News and AAP News On Call
 - ii. Implement, manage and evaluate your scholarly activities, ILPs, quality improvement projects and written evaluations with access to PediaLink®
 - iii. Network with other pediatric fellowship trainees and become involved in the annual advocacy campaign through the Section on Medical Students, Residents and Fellowship Trainees (SOMSRFT)
 - iv. Help your program meet quality improvement requirements with access to EQIPP quality improvement courses that deliver everything you need to identify and close practice gaps
 - v. Save money through member discount programs in insurance, credit cards, car rentals, office supplies, website development, pediatric purchasing programs and more
 - vi. Access the newly developed AAP mentorship program
- 4. What mentoring is available through these organizations?
 - a. ACC offers:
 - i. A formal mentoring program that matches mentees/mentors based upon career interest and professional development needs. Mentees complete an online profile, and are matched to mentors based upon shared interest. Once an appropriate match is made, mentors are available to help provide general career advice, provide assistance with CVs and cover letters, help with interview preparation, and provide advice on how to network effectively. For more information regarding the ACC mentoring program, please visit:
<http://www.acc.org/membership/member-benefits-and-resources/career-resources/mentoring-program>
 - b. AHA offers:
 - i. Early Career & Fellows-In-Training Program at the Scientific Sessions: A lecture series on early career development targeted at fellows and junior faculty, which also includes a variety of Early Career Networking Receptions/Luncheons for trainees to connect with potential mentors and other trainees
 - Please see <https://my.americanheart.org> for more information (click on “Early Career,” then “Early Career and Fellows in Training Program” or check out the links under “Mentoring”)
 - ii. The AHA Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young (CVDY) also sponsors a Visiting Professor for Career Development Award. Your program can apply to host a visiting professor with the goal of encouraging mentorship and academic development of pediatric cardiology fellows and faculty who are early in their academic careers

- Please see <https://my.americanheart.org> for more information (click on “Councils,” then “Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young”, then “CVDY Visiting Professor for Career Development Award”)
- c. AAP offers:
 - i. The newly developed AAP Mentorship Program: A free program for all AAP members, which connects mentees to AAP mentors throughout the nation. Please visit <https://aapmentorship.chronus.com/about>
 - ii. In addition to this formal program, joining and becoming involved with the AAP and subspecialty sections affords trainees the opportunity to work closely with leaders in their field
 5. Where can I find out about open fourth year positions?
 - a. <http://www.spctpd.com/fellowships>
 6. Where can I hear about job listings?
 - a. Consider signing up for the “pediheartnet” listserv. Not only are there great discussions about congenital heart disease, but there are often emails about programs recruiting for new faculty. Click the following link and fill out the form to sign-up for the listserv: <http://www.pediheart.net/howto.html>
 - b. Another option is sign up for updates from <http://www.pedjobs.org>, The Official AAP Resource for Pediatric Careers
 7. Are there any events at each of the national meetings that are specifically targeted for pediatric cardiology trainees?
 - a. ACC: The ACC’s Adult Congenital and Pediatric Cardiology (ACPC) Section sponsors a Pediatric Cardiology and CHD Mentoring session at the Annual Scientific Session with presentations on jobs and career advice as well as small group sessions with many of the leaders in the adult congenital and pediatric cardiology communities. Additionally, there are several Fellow-In-Training (FIT) sessions that are applicable to both pediatric and adult cardiology fellows including a “Stump the Professor”, “FIT Jeopardy”, “Careers in Cardiology”, “Scholarship and Education”, and “Acing the Transition” session. There is also an FIT “Mix and Mingle” Session which allows FITs to talk with experts in a variety of fields on a one-on-one basis. This includes a table dedicated to experts in the field of Pediatric Cardiology and Adult Congenital Heart Disease. Additionally, for all pediatric cardiologists (including trainees), there is a congenital heart disease pathway integrated across the three-day ACC meeting including an agenda full of podium and poster presentations containing the latest research and updates in the field of congenital heart disease.
 - b. AHA: There are no specific sessions geared towards pediatric cardiology trainees at the annual AHA meeting; however the Early Career & Fellows-In-Training Program is relevant to both pediatric and adult cardiology fellows. The program is a lecture series on early career development targeted at fellows and junior faculty, which also includes a variety of Early Career Networking Receptions/Luncheons for trainees to connect with potential mentors and other trainees. Please see <https://my.americanheart.org> for

more information (click on “Early Career,” then “Early Career and Fellows in Training Program”).

- c. AAP: There are specific sessions targeted for pediatric cardiology trainees at the AAP National Conference and Exhibition (NCE), which includes the Cardiology Section Scientific Program. This program includes research presentations as well as a fellow research award. More information can be found at: <http://www2.aap.org/sections/cardiology/resedu.htm>. There is also a Pediatric Cardiology Fellows’ Workshop at AAP hosted by the SPCTPD which is usually held on the Saturday during the NCE at Noon. Topics such as work force issues, preparing for a job interview, academic tracts, etc. are discussed. This FAQ generation is the end product of one such meeting where a need for a resource/fact sheet was brought up by the participating fellows.
8. How can I get more involved in these organizations as a pediatric cardiology trainee?
- a. ACC: There are many opportunities for additional responsibilities within the Fellows-in-training section including: up to 50 available FIT positions on one of ACCs Councils or Committees, opportunities for involvement on a local level within your state’s ACC Chapter, and the opportunity to join the Adult Congenital and Pediatric Cardiology (ACPC) Section to stay involved with ongoing initiatives in this section. The ACC coordinates with several other organizations including the AHA, the NPCQIC, and is involved with several nationwide registries including STS and IMPACT. There are opportunities for FITs to be involved in all of these activities.
 - b. AHA: There are opportunities for additional responsibilities within the Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young including participation in the Early Career and Mentoring Committee, which participates in conference planning and Early Investigator Awards.
 - c. AAP: There are many leadership opportunities available to pediatric cardiology fellowship trainees within the Section on Medical Students, Residents, and Fellowship Trainees. These include regional and national leadership positions, as well as outreach “liaison” positions to represent trainees in various groups within the AAP (Council on Pediatric Subspecialties, AAP Committee on Federal Government Affairs, and many more). There are also opportunities to become involved in the AAP Section on Cardiology and Cardiothoracic Surgery (SOCCS), including the recently developed workgroup on Pediatric Cardiology Trainees and Early Career Physicians.
9. Are there any pediatric board review resources available through these organizations?
- a. ACC: The ACC has a multitude of board prep materials which can be found at: <http://www.acc.org/education-and-meetings/products-and-resources/board-prep-offerings>, primarily geared towards adult cardiologists. However, as the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) is launching the Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) Certification Examination, the ACC will be launching an ACHD Self-Assessment and Board Prep Program which will be available at the above link in Summer 2015 and

available to ACC members for a reduced fee. This program will be invaluable for pediatric cardiology trainees with an interest in adult congenital heart disease.

- b. AHA: Not currently
 - c. AAP: Yes, the AAP hosts an annual Specialty Review course in Pediatric Cardiology for an additional fee. The course is also recorded and sold as a DVD set for fellows who cannot attend the course in person. Course details available at:
http://www2.aap.org/sections/cardiology/pediatric_cardiology/2014/ or
<http://www2.aap.org/sections/cardiology/resedu.htm>. In addition, a subspecialty PREP curriculum for Pediatric Cardiology is currently in development.
10. Is there a listserv or forum through which I can connect with other pediatric cardiology trainees?
- a. AAP: There is no forum specific for pediatric cardiology trainees. However, there is a forum for all fellowship trainees. Section leadership would be willing to consider creating a specific listserv if there is sufficient interest.

FELLOW RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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