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Message From the Fellowship Director

The goal of our fellowship program is to prepare the fellow for a career in academic pediatric cardiology. We view our program not as a continuation of residency training but, rather, the first step in a career in academic medicine. We strive to create a training environment that will foster not only quality clinical training, but also rigorous inquiry and mentoring that will lead to development of the next generation of leaders in pediatric cardiology.

As such, we welcome applicants with a high degree of motivation and self-direction who are able and willing to use available resources to become superior clinicians and researchers.
Fellowship Leaders

An Educational Committee consisting of six faculty members and fellows provides guidance and oversight to our fellowship program. The committee is responsible for overseeing the academic aspects of the program, including the structure of rotations, electives, didactic activities, and recruitment.

The faculty members of the Educational Committee are:

Sadia Malik, M.D., M.P.H.
Fellowship Director

Ryan Butts, M.D.
Chair, Scholarship Oversight Committee

Maria Bano, M.D.
Chair, Clinical Competency Committee

Our program has a Clinical Competency Committee that is in charge of reviewing evaluations and the progress of all our fellows. The committee is also responsible for preparing the semiannual milestone evaluations of each fellow for the ACGME and for providing advice to the training directors regarding a fellow’s progress, including recommendations for promotion.

In addition, each fellow benefits from a Scholarly Oversight Committee that provides support and guidance in the development of the individual scholarly activity. This committee consists of three or more UT Southwestern faculty members, including the fellow’s primary research mentor, in order to provide a broader perspective for overall career guidance.
Faculty

There are 28 pediatric cardiologists on the academic faculty at UT Southwestern. All have offices at Children’s Medical Center (CMC). Many of our faculty members enjoy national and international reputations as leaders in pediatric cardiology. Surgery is performed by three cardiovascular surgeons (Robert “Jake” Jaquiss, M.D., Ryan Davies, M.D., and Timothy Pirolli, M.D), who have their offices at CMC. Cardiac intensive care is provided by cardiologists and critical care physicians with specialized training in cardiac intensive care.

Nicolas Madsen, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Pediatrics
Chief of Cardiology,
Co-Director of the Heart Center

Yousef Arar, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
Cardiac Catheterization

Sravani Avula, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
Acute Care

Nathanya Baez Hernandez, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
Pediatric Advanced Cardiac Care

Maria Bano, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
Pediatric Advanced Cardiac Care

Sarah D. Blumenschein, M.D.
Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
Preventive Cardiology

Ryan Butts, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
Medical Director, Pediatric Advanced Cardiac Care Program

Melinda Cory, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
Cardiac Critical Care

Chioma Duru, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
Acute Care

Munes Fares, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
Cardiac MRI

David Fixler, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics,
General Cardiology

Manel Gaitonde, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
Echocardiography

F. Gerald Greil, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Pediatrics,
Radiology and Advanced Imaging Research Ctr.

Tarique Hussain, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Radiology,
Director, Cardiac MRI

Catherine M. Ikemba, M.D.
Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
Echocardiography

Colin E. Kane, M.D.
Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
Echocardiography

Jenna Keelan, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
Echocardiography

Matthew S. Lemler, M.D.
Associate Director of Clinical Services
Professor of Pediatrics,
Echocardiography

Lynn Mahony, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics,
General Cardiology

Sadia Malik, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
Fellowship Program Director,
General Cardiology

Hoang Nguyen, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
Electrophysiology

Sonali Patel, M.D.
Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
Director of Education,
Director of ACCU

Claudio Ramaciotti, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics, Director,
Echocardiography

William A. Scott, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics,
Electrophysiology

Kavita Sharma, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
Fetal Echocardiography

Surendranath Veeram Reddy, M.D.
Associate Professor of Pediatrics Director, Cardiac Catheterization

Thomas M. Zellers, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics,
Vice President, Medical Staff Affairs Children’s Medical Center
Cardiac Catheterization
UT Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW) is a top-ranked, multifaceted academic institution nationally recognized for its excellence in educating physicians, biomedical scientists, and other health care professionals. The Heart Center at Children’s Health, an affiliated nonprofit pediatric health system, offers a comprehensive program of specialized care for children with congenital and acquired heart diseases.

The Medical Center is comprised of UT Southwestern Medical School, UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and UT Southwestern School of Health Professions. These three schools currently train about 3,600 medical, graduate, and health professions students, residents, and postdoctoral fellows each year. Six UT Southwestern faculty members have been awarded Nobel prizes, while 15 Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigators are currently on faculty. Additionally, UT Southwestern supports over 5,800 research projects nearly $455 million in annual funding. Primary pediatric cardiology clinical facilities are located immediately adjacent to UTSW.

Most of the pediatric clinical work is done at Children’s Medical Center Dallas (CMC), which is part of the Children’s Health system in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. We also provide outpatient and consultation services at Children’s Medical Center Plano and in various outreach clinics. Children’s Health is a private, not-for-profit institution that was established more than 100 years ago. Today, CMC is licensed for 616 beds and features a 44-bed pediatric intensive care unit, a 26-bed pediatric cardiac intensive care unit, a 90-bed neonatal intensive care unit, and a 21-bed telemetry unit. We have a large outpatient clinic seeing an average of 38 outpatients daily, as well as multiple outreach clinics. Cardiology care is provided through the Heart Center, which includes two cardiac catheterization laboratories, a hybrid cath-MRI suite, additional MRI facilities within the Heart Center, a pre-procedure and recovery room, echocardiography examination rooms, a sedation room, fetal cardiology, exercise and electrocardiography (including pacemakers) work areas, outpatient consultation facilities, faculty, fellow, nursing, and administrative offices, a library, conference rooms, and administrative staff, all located in one central area.

Consultations are performed on newborn infants born at Parkland Hospital. About 12,000 infants are born each year at Parkland. The 93,000-square-foot neonatal intensive care unit has 96 single-patient rooms. Parkland also houses 106 well newborn infant-mother rooms. Additionally, adults with congenital heart disease are cared for at Parkland and at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital (one of UT Southwestern’s two University Hospitals) and seen in consultation at CMC and Clements.
Curriculum

The duration of the accredited program is three years. Many fellows choose to complete a fourth year to pursue a specialized clinical interest, such as echocardiography, or to spend time in a basic science laboratory. The exact schedule is determined in part by the fellow’s interest and previous experience, but a sample schedule is described here:

First- and third-year fellows typically rotate through two months of echocardiography, electrophysiology, cardiac catheterization, cardiology inpatient, and the cardiac intensive care unit. They also have a month of outpatient clinic in the first year and a month of transplant and adult congenital heart disease in the second year. Remaining months are divided between research and electives and are tailored to the research project and fellow’s interests. Fellows can expect one month each of heart failure/transplant and adult congenital heart disease in the second year.

Description of Specific Clinical Rotations

Inpatient Floor-Consultation Service
The fellow on service is responsible for following all cardiology inpatients and performing consultations. The patients may be on the cardiology inpatient floor, in the general pediatric intensive care unit, the neonatal intensive care unit, the step-down or well newborn nurseries, or on another subspecialty or general pediatric ward. All patients are seen with a faculty cardiologist. All fellows participate actively in teaching discussions with the residents and attending physician. During the course of the fellowship, the fellow assumes increasing responsibility for patient management.

Cardiac Intensive Care Unit
The fellow is responsible for managing all critically ill and postoperative cardiology patients in the cardiac intensive care unit and will work with the attending cardiac intensivist, the on-service consulting cardiologist, and the cardiac surgeons. During this rotation the fellow becomes skilled in caring for postoperative patients, understanding their physiology and managing their various comorbidities and complications. In addition, the fellow will become familiar with cardiac anatomy, as visualized by the surgeon, and with techniques of cardiopulmonary bypass.

Imaging
The echocardiography laboratory is staffed by Drs. Claudio Ramaciotti, Matthew Lemler and Catherine Ikemba. The goal of this rotation is for the fellow to acquire skills necessary for performing and interpreting echocardiographic studies. More than 13,000 echocardiograms (including transthoracic, transesophageal, and fetal studies) are performed each year, which offers the opportunity for the trainee to be exposed to a wide variety of complex congenital/acquired heart diseases. Fellows often have the opportunity to perform the initial scan. Education is available in twice-weekly echocardiographic conferences and on a daily basis by sonographers and readers. During the second and third years the fellow gains experience in specialized areas such as transesophageal, fetal, and exercise stress echocardiography. A cardiac MRI elective is also offered.
Our cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMR) team includes Drs. Gerald Greil, Tarique Hussain, Jeanne Dillenbeck, and Munes Fares. CMR is an exciting, emerging field in pediatric cardiology. In partnership with the Department of Radiology, the UT Southwestern Pediatric Cardiology Program is a leader in the field of CMR in patients with acquired and congenital heart disease. Our program combines technology, physics, and clinical care to provide the most comprehensive cardiac evaluations for patients. We have a magnet in the Heart Center that is primarily dedicated to cardiac imaging and is physically located next to the catheterization lab, allowing hybrid procedures to be performed. As part of imaging training at UTSW, fellows will have extensive exposure to cardiac MRI. Fellows will learn how cardiac MRI, CT, and echocardiography work together to answer critical questions for each cardiovascular lesion, in conjunction with other imaging training. They will also be exposed to image acquisition techniques, study interpretation, and quantitative analysis. Advanced techniques such as 3D reconstruction, including 3D printing, will also be covered.

**Cardiac Catheterization**

We offer a full range of interventional procedures; just over 1,000 total catheterizations were performed last year. The cardiac catheterization laboratories comprise two angiographic suites. The laboratories are staffed by Drs. Suren Reddy, Thomas Zellers and Yousef Arar. Both laboratories are state of the art and are located in the interventional suite of the Heart Center, which was opened in 2014. The catheterization laboratories have direct access to Pre-op and Recovery, Cardiac OR, MRI, and CVICU.

**Electrophysiology**

Our electrophysiology staff of Drs. William Scott and Hoang Nguyen has a very active service. During this rotation, the fellow is exposed to all aspects of clinical electrophysiology, including noninvasive studies (ECGs, 24-hour ambulatory ECGs [Holter monitor], event monitoring, atrial electrograms, stress testing, and tilt-table testing); cardiac pacing (transesophageal, temporary, permanent), including implantation and analysis; and invasive studies, including catheter ablation. The fellow will become proficient in interpreting electrocardiograms and 24-hour recordings, performing and interpreting transesophageal ECG recordings, and assessing pacemaker and implanted cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) function. About 16,000 electrocardiograms are performed each year. More than 250 pacemaker patients are currently in active follow-up and about 35 devices are implanted each year. In addition, the fellow participates in electrophysiologic studies and catheter ablation procedures. Typically, 100 catheter ablations and an additional 12 electrophysiology studies are performed annually.
Transplantation
We are a high-volume transplantation program under the direction of Drs. Maria Bano, Ryan Butts, Alyssa Power and Nathanya Baez Hernandez. The fellow will attend transplant clinic and rounds with inpatients who are being evaluated for transplantation, awaiting transplantation, or are status post-transplantation.

Continuity Clinic and Other Clinical Activities
The fellow will have his/her own outpatient clinic one-half day per week. Patients assigned to this clinic will include new patients cared for by the fellow during inpatient rotations, new patients referred for outpatient consultation, and follow-up patients previously seen by the fellow. The goal of this experience is to provide a continuum of patient contact so that the fellow can appreciate the natural history of selected clinical problems and develop a good doctor/patient relationship.

During the course of the program the fellow will be assigned at various times to subspecialty clinics such as preventive cardiology, obesity, and adults with congenital heart disease. We have very active clinics in each of these areas that are staffed by appropriate subspecialists. Familiarity with exercise testing will be gained through patient care experience and formal lectures.

Research/Scholarly Activity
A one-month rotation during the first year allows the fellow time to explore possible areas of interest. Research may be performed in clinical or basic science areas. A fellow may choose as his/her faculty mentor a person from either inside or outside the Pediatric Cardiology Division. The experience should instill the culture and value of investigative work and lay the foundation for future contributions. The trainee will develop skills in experimental design, data analysis, and presentation of results.

Clinical Science Opportunities
All pediatric cardiology faculty members are active in clinical research and, as such, fellows may participate in a wide variety of projects. As indicated above, fellows may also collaborate with investigators outside of pediatric cardiology, depending on interests. Brief descriptions of current research efforts within pediatric cardiology include:

Interventional Cardiology
The interventional group is very active in clinical and pre-clinical research. We were involved in the post-approval study for the Melody valve and continue to be involved in several multicenter clinical trials, including: covered stents in coarctation (COAST II), covered stents for RV-PA conduit tears (PARCS), Nit-Occlud PDA post-approval study, and the post-market surveillance study for closure of ASD with the Amplatzer septal occluder. We also contribute to the NCDR IMPACT database.

The group is very active with multiple research endeavors to improve the management of structural and functional heart disease, with strong collaboration with pediatric cardiac surgery. Many fellows have completed research with the interventional team. The group has
been awarded intramural (Children’s Clinical Research Advisory Committee) and extramural (NIH, AHA) grants. Topics of interest are biodegradable stents, percutaneous mechanical support, and expandable cardiovascular conduits. Pre-clinical research is possible due to the infrastructure and support from UT Southwestern.

MRI

The pediatric CMR section is also on the forefront of research with frequent collaboration with our colleagues at UTSW, including using CMR, CT, and echo data to produce 3D printed hearts for surgical planning and research. We have access to the Advanced Imaging Research Center, UTSW’s research program dedicated to MRI research, which is headed by AIRC Director Dean Sherry, Ph.D., and Medical Director Craig Malloy, M.D., and includes access to one of the few 7 Tesla CMR scanners used in human research.

Echocardiography

In addition to continually improving the quality of imaging and its impact on clinical care, research interests of faculty include congenital coronary anomalies, predicting/diagnosing rejection in heart transplant recipients by the use of strain imaging, improving assessment of progressive left ventricular systolic dysfunction in patients with myopathies, and reducing interstage mortality by frequent echocardiographic monitoring of single ventricle patients.

Electrophysiology

Research activities in electrophysiology include investigation of arrhythmias in patients with complex congenital heart disease. One current analysis is based on our observation of specific arrhythmia patterns in patients with heterotaxy syndromes, while other projects include evaluation of the impact of electrical storms in ICD patients, analysis of sudden death risk in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, and data collection
to refine of ECG normative criteria based upon race. Database development is underway to more comprehensively evaluate the epidemiology and prevention of sudden cardiac death from all causes.

Research Education
We require all fellows to take a course in medical statistics. Additional extensive resources to support clinical research are available through the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA), a national consortium funded through the National Institutes of Health’s National Center for Research Resources, with the primary aim of creating a definable academic home for the disciplines of clinical and translational research.

The mission of the Pediatrics Department is to accelerate and enhance the training and career development of clinical investigators, promote the conduct of high-quality patient-oriented research, develop effective mechanisms to facilitate translational research, and provide a formal mechanism of institutional recognition for clinical scientists.

Basic Science Opportunities
UT Southwestern Medical Center has an international reputation as a leading research institution. On the basis of federal individual research grant support for basic sciences, UT Southwestern is among the top 10 biomedical research institutions in the country. There are more than 500 graduate students earning their Ph.D. degrees and more than 90 students obtaining combined M.D. and Ph.D. degrees.

A vast array of research opportunities is available in the area of cardiovascular biology, as UT Southwestern currently boasts one of the largest concentrations of investigators in this exciting area of science, including: Eric Olson, Ph.D., Helen Hobbs, M.D., Masashi Yanagisawa, M.D., Ph.D., Joseph Hill, M.D., Ph.D., and Craig Malloy, M.D. This critical mass has allowed the institution to successfully compete for selection as the first recipient of a Reynolds Foundation Grant for research in the cardiovascular sciences. This research, headed by Dr. Hobbs, has been renewed, bringing the total funding to $42 million. Additional postdoctoral fellows training in cardiac development, as well as graduate students obtaining their Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. degrees in the laboratories, provide a rich and interactive training environment. Frequent lab meetings, journal clubs, and seminars are an integral part of fellows’ experience. This effort has resulted in numerous publications representing advances in our understanding of cardiac development and the genetic basis for congenital heart defects.

In general, the majority of fellows focusing on basic science research will likely spend a total of four years in their training. Grants are available through the Physician Scientist Training Program at UT Southwestern or the Reynolds Foundation to assist in funding for these additional years. Those pursuing more clinical research will have a rich exposure to state-of-the-art approaches in understanding the molecular basis of congenital heart disease and cardiac development through formal and informal conferences and discussion.
Teaching and Didactic Activities

Conferences

Research Conference
This is a series of conferences in which fellows and faculty members share their ongoing research projects throughout the year. Second- and third-year fellows participate in this conference to introduce their research projects, obtain ongoing guidance, and practice for presentations at national meetings.

Surgical Morbidity and Mortality Conference
In this conference, participants review cases that have significant morbidity and mortality and quality measures in order to improve the standard of care.

Journal Club Conference
This conference is a critical review of pertinent medical literature and journal articles by topics, conducted in the form of a debate to engage and encourage active participation of fellows and faculty.

Echocardiographic Conference
Education is available in twice-weekly echocardiographic conferences.

Adult Congenital Heart Disease Conference
In this conference, participants review specific cases and critically analyze those with the most challenging particulars in order to enhance the standard of care.

Pediatric Department Fellows’ Core Curriculum Conference (first and third Fridays)
This is a conference designed to provide instruction in various subjects required by the ACGME and American Board of Pediatrics that are common to all fellows.

Grand Rounds
One of the mainstays of the Department of Pediatrics is its Grand Rounds held every Wednesday morning. It’s an opportunity for attendings and faculty from outside UTSW to share up-to-date, evidence-based medicine practices and groundbreaking research.
Fourth-Year Fellowship Positions

We offer qualified fellows additional fourth-year training in MRI, cardiac critical care, interventional cardiology, imaging, heart transplantation, prospective clinical research, and basic science research. The structure of these experiences depends on the interests and skills of the individual fellow. If you are interested in a fourth-year position, please contact one of the following individuals:

**Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care**
Joshua Wolovits, M.D.
joshua.wolovits@utsouthwestern.edu

**Advanced Cardiac Imaging, Echocardiography**
Claudio Ramaciotti, M.D.
claudio.ramaciotti@utsouthwestern.edu

**Interventional Cardiac Catheterization**
Suren Reddy, M.D.
suren.reddy@utsouthwestern.edu

**Advanced Cardiac MRI**
Tarique Hussain, M.D., Ph.D.
muhammad.hussain@utsouthwestern.edu

**Pediatric Advanced Cardiac Care (PACC)**
Ryan Butts, M.D.
ryan.butts@utsouthwestern.edu
Alumni

2011
Jeremy Affolter, M.D.
Pediatric Intensivist
Children’s Mercy
Kansas City, Missouri

Adrian Dyer, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
UT Southwestern Medical Center

Jason Imundo, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Penn State Hershey Medical Center

2012
Preetha Balakrishnank, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Wayne State University School of Medicine (Detroit Children's Hospital)

Arshid Mir, M.D.
Assistant Professor
University of Oklahoma

2013
Greg Barker, M.D.
Staff Physician
Cook Children’s Hospital
Fort Worth, Texas

Holly DeSena, M.D.
Assistant Professor
University of Cincinnati

2014
Clarissa Garcia, M.D.
Private Practice Houston, Texas

Carrie Herbert, M.D.
Staff Physician
Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital
St. Petersburg, Florida

2015
David Sutcliffe, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
UT Southwestern Medical Center

Melissa Webb, M.D.
Pediatric Interventional Cardiologist
Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital
St. Louis University

2016
Kevin Engelhardt, M.D.
PICU Fellow
UT Southwestern Medical Center

Nicholas Huggins, M.D.
PICU Fellow
UT Southwestern Medical Center

Bao “Robyn” Puente, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
UT Southwestern Medical Center
Children’s National Medical Center

2017
Rachel Jamison, M.D.
Volunteer Faculty
UT Southwestern Medical Center
Medical Director, Hope Ignited

Danielle Moye, M.D.
Pediatric Cardiologist Fetal Care Center
Dallas, Texas

2018
Jerry Michael, M.D.
Staff Physician
Driscoll Children’s Hospital
Corpus Christi, Texas

Andrew Tran, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Nationwide Children’s Hospital
Columbus, Ohio

2019
Silvestre Duran, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital
Cleveland, Ohio

Richard Markus, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Heart Center for Children
Medical City Hospital
Dallas, Texas

2020
Yousef Arar, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
UT Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, Texas

Mehar Hoda, M.D.
4th Year Echocardiography Fellow
UT Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, TX

Ravi Vamsee, M.D.
Advanced Cardiac Imaging - MRI
UT Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, TX

2022
Courtney Ochoa, M.D.
Applying for CA Medical License
Relocating to California

Stephen Spurgin, M.D.
4th Year Research Fellow
UT Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, Texas

Jamie Weller, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Cardiac Intensive Care
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA
Living in Dallas

Located in north central Texas, Dallas and its surrounding communities are growing rapidly and have a population of nearly 3 million people. One of Dallas’ most important assets is its highly diversified economy, which provides broad employment opportunities for two-career families. Dallas enjoys one of the most sustained growth records of any major metropolitan center in the country. It is consistently a destination of choice for young professionals, having one of the most stable housing markets, a strong public and private school system, and a low cost of living. Due to a diverse population, Dallas benefits from rich ethnic inspirations that infuse the neighborhoods, street festivals, food, and culture of the city. This national and international spirit is furthered by close proximity to one of the largest airports in the nation, DFW International (25 minutes from UT Southwestern), from which one can fly nonstop to many locations in the U.S. and internationally.

In addition, Love Field Airport, which is less than three miles from UT Southwestern, is served primarily by Southwest Airlines and allows one to fly to many locations at relatively low prices.

There is no state or city income tax, and local property taxes and the cost of living are lower than in most of the nation’s large metropolitan centers. As a result of all these factors, many major organizations have selected Dallas as the location for their corporate headquarters.

Food and culture feed Dallas, with dozens of world-class restaurants, not to mention those in Fort Worth, less than an hour away. Dallas has the largest urban arts district in the country. It includes world-class art museums such as the Nasher Sculpture Center and the Dallas Museum of Art, while Fort Worth offers the Kimbell Art Museum and the Modern Art Museum. The area boasts a top 10 ballet company (Texas Ballet Company), a top 10 opera company (Dallas Opera Company), the Dallas Theatre Company, and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.
If the visual and performing arts are not your scene, pop culture is all around us too. Dallas has a vibrant night life with live music at intimate venues like the House of Blues and the Granada Theatre, as well as at large arenas such as the American Airlines Center and AT&T Stadium (home of the Dallas Cowboys), not to mention one of the largest local music festivals at Austin City Limits just down the road. To add to this plethora of activities are a variety of movie theaters showing the nation’s leading first-run movies as well as independent and foreign pictures.

And then there are the malls. Many in Dallas believe that shopping is the city’s official sport (when the going gets tough, the tough go shopping). Even so, that’s not the only sport in Dallas. In fact, Dallas is one of only 13 cities in the country with all four major professional sports teams, including football (Cowboys), baseball (Rangers), ice hockey (Stars), and basketball (Mavericks), along with soccer (FC Dallas). We also host the AT&T Byron Nelson PGA tournament, drawing the nation’s best golfers.

Yes, it is warm here (ok, hot) during the summer, but we know how to do proper air conditioning. And it is often wonderfully sunny and warm here in the winter when others are buried in snow and ice. Many outdoor recreational activities are also available and, because of the mild climate, can be pursued year-round. Boating, fishing, and water skiing are particularly popular in the numerous public lakes surrounding Dallas. The city of Fort Worth offers additional museums and cultural activities, and Dallas is also a brief drive from the state capital, Austin, and the picturesque Texas Hill Country outside of Austin. More information about Dallas can be obtained from visitdallas.com and listings.guidelive.com.
Benefits and Housing

Health Benefits

As UT Southwestern employees, fellows will be provided health care benefits – which include medical, dental, and vision plans – based on their need for coverage of themselves and eligible family members.

Leave Policy

Fellows are allowed two weeks of paid vacation per year of fellowship training. In addition, there are 10 to 11 paid holidays each year. If you are assigned to work on a holiday, you get a "comp" day. Additional leave (e.g., pregnancy, illness, and family issues) is at the discretion of the Program Director; however, trainees must complete 33 months of training during the course of three years. When leave is in excess of three months, the trainee will be required by ACGME guidelines to extend the training period in order to complete 33 months of training.

Other Benefits

The program provides support for the purchase of several standard textbooks, journal subscriptions, membership dues in major professional societies, and computer software. There is an annual stipend for meetings. Attendance at and participation in scientific professional meetings is an important part of the educational experience.

Housing

Dallas offers a wide variety of housing options, ranging from high-rise apartments to homes on tree-lined streets in established neighborhoods. One-bedroom apartments can be rented for $900 to $1,300/month within 20 minutes of campus and for about $800 to $1,100/month within 35 minutes of campus. Free parking is available in a garage located less than a five-minute walk from the hospital.

Turtle Creek
Eligibility and Application Procedure

To be considered, applicants must have completed a fully accredited pediatric residency training in North America by the beginning of the fellowship. Fellowship applicants must be board certified in pediatrics by the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) or must be eligible to take the ABP general pediatric examination during the first year of fellowship training. In addition, graduates of foreign medical schools must possess a valid ECFMG certificate. We do accept applications from persons holding J1 visas.

According to institutional policy, we cannot accept applications from anyone holding any type of H visa at the time of application.

We have positions for two fellows each year. You can apply to the UT Southwestern Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship Program through the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) website (aamc.org/students/medstudents/eras/fellowship_applicants/).

We participate in the Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship Match Program administered by the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP).

Application Requirements Checklist

- Recent photograph
- Personal statement
  - Why do you want to specialize in pediatric cardiology?
  - What past experiences have informed your choice of pediatric cardiology?
  - What are you looking for in a training program?
  - What are your career goals for five to 10 years after you have finished your fellowship?
- Letters of recommendation (maximum of four letters)
  - A member of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology at your residency training institution
  - Residency program Director or department Chair
  - Research mentor (if applicable)
  - An attending of your choosing
- Dean’s letter and evaluation
- Medical school transcript
- Copies of USMLE scores or COMLEX scores. If step 3 not taken, please indicate date exam is to be taken
- Copy of immigration visa (if applicable, send directly to Program Coordinator)
- Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) certificate (if applicable)

Application Selection Timeline

- July: MyERAS opens to applicants
- August-October: Selected applicants interviewed in Dallas
- November: Deadline for application and all supplementary materials
- November: Rank lists submitted (exact date to be determined)
- December: Match results announced (exact date to be determined)
Current Fellows

First Year
- Sara Alhousseiny, MD
- Jonathan Gilmore, MD
- Mohammad Mehdi, MBBS
- Sarah Zoretic, DO

Second Year
- Heidi Kim, MD
- Pezad Doctor, MBBS

Third Year
- Manal Alqahtani, MBBS
- Vidhi Makanji, MD, MPH
- Drishti Tolani, MBBS

Fourth Year
- Maher Abadeer, MD
- Sanja Dzelebdzic, MD
- Austin Mercadante, MD
- Laura Radel, MD
- Stephen Spurgin, MD