The Division of Cardiovascular Health and Disease within the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine is pleased to provide one medical student per year a focused educational experience in Cardiovascular Medicine. The student will have the opportunity to work with and be mentored by a faculty member in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine as well as to participate in specially selected educational experiences within the division. The details of the four year experience are outlined below.

The Department of Internal Medicine has 250 full-time Faculty members of which 25 of these reside within the Division of Cardiovascular Health and Disease. The Division of Cardiovascular Health provides patient care in both the hospital and ambulatory settings and takes great pride in offering services for common, complex, and rare medical conditions including coronary artery disease, cardiology critical care, advanced heart failure, arrhythmias, adult congenital heart disease, structural heart disease, valvular heart disease, pericardial disease, and inherited and acquired blood clotting disorders.

The Division has facilities in the Heart, Lung, & Vascular Institute, University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Cincinnati VA Medical Center, West Chester Hospital, Medical Arts Ambulatory Center, UC Health Office Building at West Chester Hospital, and the UC Health Women’s Center.

General Description

The Specialized Track in CV medicine allows one student per year to enrich their COM educational experience over a four year period with opportunities in the cardiovascular classroom, the clinical setting, the procedural setting and in either basic or clinical research. The student will engage in a mentoring relationship with a faculty member in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine and complete a scholarly project. A curriculum as outlined below will be adapted from existing cardiovascular educational opportunities to include the student at the appropriate learning level. In addition, the student will have unique opportunities and access to more specialized areas of cardiovascular medicine (specifically procedural cardiology) that are typically available only at the level of a clinical fellows.

Learning Outcomes

1. Nurture a mentoring relationship with a cardiology attending as well as fellows and internal medicine residents

2. Explore the field of cardiology as a possible career path and begin to understand the depth and focus a subspecialty in internal medicine
3. Develop communication skills and become proficient in the use of specialized clinical vocabulary used in cardiovascular medicine

4. Gain exposure and beginning facility with the specialized procedures and clinical technology used primarily in cardiovascular medicine

5. Enrich the clinical experience in Internal Medicine with experiences focused on the care of the patient with cardiovascular issues

6. Complete a scholarly project in a chosen area of cardiovascular medicine under the mentorship of a faculty member in the field

Curriculum

Focused Educational Experience In Cardiology: Year 1

The student will meet monthly with his/her faculty mentor. Dr Richard Becker, the Chairman of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine will serve in this capacity for the first student in the new track. Together, the student and Dr. Becker will outline a plan for an enriched experience in cardiovascular medicine that augments the student’s first year of study. Depending upon the student’s schedule, s/he may attend the weekly cardiac catheterization conference at UCMC and/or the heart failure weekly conference. A more didactic option would be attendance a weekly Cardiovascular Disease Grand Rounds.

Focused Educational Experience In Cardiology: Summer Experience

Between years 1 and 2, the student will participate in a minimum of 200 (5 weeks) work hours in a summer research experience under the direction of a faculty member in a specified cardiovascular topic. This experience will culminate in a project that could potentially result in a medical or a scientific competition or a publication. Dr. Becker will help the student to choose a project and a research mentor as the summer of 2018 approaches.

The Division of Cardiology will fund the student the amount of $1,500 for the summer work experience.

Focused Educational Experience In Cardiology: Year 2

The student will continue to meet monthly with Dr. Becker. Depending upon the student’s schedule, s/he may attend the weekly cardiac catheterization conference at UCMC and/or the heart failure weekly conference. A more didactic option would be attendance a weekly Cardiovascular Disease Grand Rounds.
Focused Educational Experience In Cardiology:
Year 3

Students will continue to meet monthly with Dr. Becker who will provide advice and support for the preparation of a didactic paper or an abstract to be submitted to the Ohio State American College of Physicians (ACP) meeting in October of each year. The Department of Internal Medicine has been successful in mentoring students through the state abstract competition for almost a decade – winning either the gold or silver medals as a department for each of the last 3 years. It is hoped that the relationship between the student and mentor will result in a letter of support for residency applications.

The clinical and didactic conferences above will remain an option. There is a 2 week “selective” in Year 3 in the Cardiovascular ICU. This student will be given top priority for this elective if desired by the student.

Focused Educational Experience In Cardiology:
Year 4

The students will continue to meet with Dr. Becker. The student will participate in a specialized clinical elective in year 4 with rotation time in the cardiac diagnostic labs at UCMC. This opportunity includes time in the cardiac cath lab, echo lab, cardiac stress lab, advanced cardiac imaging, and electrophysiology suite.

Also available for elective rotations in year 4 are the Cardiovascular ICU (CVICU) and the Cardiology Consult service at UCMC or the VAMC if the student chooses. The student may opt for his/her elective acting internship to be performed in the Cardiovascular ICU.

Admission Criteria

Eligible students should have a strong interest in pursuing a residency in Internal Medicine. Highly motivated students will be interviewed by Internal Medicine and Cardiology faculty. Special consideration will be given to students who have already exhibited an interest in the field and who have demonstrated independent learning skills. Research experience is a plus, but is not a requirement.

Evaluation

This experience is a mentored, self-directed learning experience. It is assumed that the student who embarks on this experience has given careful consideration to his/her ability to complete enrichment activities outside of the required college of medicine curriculum and thus no attendance accountability is planned as part of the adult learning process. Students will meet regularly with the faculty mentor, provide a written summary of activities since the last meeting, and provide verbal feedback on the opportunities that s/he participated in.