2021-Year in Review

Not our usual way of welcoming our first year Cardiovascular Disease fellows. Masked, distanced, and ready to conquer 3 years of cardiology.

New echocardiogram machine for the fellowship program.

COVID-19 did not stop training or recruitment for our next generation of cardiologist and subspecialty cardiologist. We called upon our alumni who provided video clips to include in our recruitment website.

https://med.uc.edu/depart/intmed/divisions/cardio/fellowship-programs/cardiovascular-diseases-fellowship/about-the-program/hidden-content/page-1

CD Fellowship Recruitment Program Statistics 10 Year Review

- UC CD Fellowship Program 86 graduates since 2011
  - Females: 59
    - 24% of fellows' female in past 10 years.
    - 23% of fellows' female in past 5 years.
  - Males: 27
  - Minority (African American, Hispanic/Latino): 7
    - 9% of fellows in past 10 years.
    - 7% of fellows in past 5 years.
  - IMG: 40
    - 58% of fellows' IMG in past 10 years
    - 54% of fellows' IMG in past 5 years.
February 26, 2021: Happy “Thank a Resident/Fellow Day” to the outstanding group of fellows training in our cardiology programs at UC.

Throughout the constant pandemic changes, these physicians have been there to continue their training, providing excellent and compassionate cardiac care.

From the Desk of the Program Director—David Harris, MD

Over the last several years the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship program has continued to grow and provide high quality education and experiences for the trainees. I have been honored to be part of the fellowship training program for the last eight years and as the Program Director for the last three years. Dr. Vandivier has continued to support the program as an Associate Program Director and Dr. Effat has joined as an Associate Program Director focusing on Diversity and Inclusion in the cardiology program. Eva Meunier, the Fellowship Program Manager, continues to support the fellows and the education programs. Our program currently has 20 general cardiology fellows, two interventional fellows, two electrophysiology fellows and an advanced imaging fellow. The fellowship program is a partner with the Physician Scientist Training Program and has one current fellow in the program with another joining next year. Over the last 10 years, the program has trained over 60 physicians with 25% women, > 50% international medical graduates and 8% self-identified minorities.

With the growth of the division, the fellows are now exposed to patients with advanced heart failure, heart transplantation, LVAD, RVAD, ECMO, TAVR, Mitraclip, adult congenital heart disease, arrhythmias…. The Sanghvi Imaging Center has allowed all the fellows to interpret images across imaging modalities (MRI, CT, PET, SPECT and Echocardiography), which improves overall understanding and patient care.

Additionally, the program has developed a virtual simulation center which includes a catheterization simulator and a TTE/TEE simulator. These devices allow for the development of a procedural foundation, learning a systematic approach to procedures and refinement of procedural skills. Using this system, the fellow confidence has improved, and the procedural time has decreased.

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the fellowship had implemented streaming capabilities for lectures. The last 2 years have allowed the program to improve the online curriculum and allow off site fellows access to the lectures in real time and all fellows the ability to review material. The pandemic has also increased the number of high yield educational material available online including ACC materials, Society specific lectures and board review courses.

Dr. Kerr has spearheaded a collaboration with the University of Kigali, Rwanda with a vision to help support the development of an independent Cardiology Fellowship Program. Over the last two years, we have provided virtual lectures to the residents and staff. Next year, Cardiologists from UC will spend 2-week blocks providing patient care and cardiology education in Kigali.

All of these opportunities have improved the availability for scholarly activity from our fellows. Our fellows continue to be published in a wide variety of journals, present abstracts at local, state and national meetings and conduct cutting edge research. Our fellows have been recognized locally for their dedication to teaching and patient care.

Overall, the fellowship program has continued to grow, provide high quality education and support each other. Graduates from this program have obtained competitive subspecialty fellowship positions, found employments opportunities meeting their needs and are leaders in the field of cardiology. I truly believe the best part of the program are the fellows themselves.

I ask that all of the prior fellows and faculty continue to support the program. If you are interested in providing a lecture, collaborating with a fellow for research or being available for career mentorship please email David.Harris@uc.edu . Finally, providing support for posters, journal fees, educational materials, simulators and international educational opportunities is costly and anything you could donate would be greatly appreciated. If you are able, please donate to the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Innovative Education fund via the link https://foundation.uc.edu/donate/CFIEF .

Have a great holiday season and a happy new year!
Fellows graduation 2021 brought faculty and fellows together for a more intimate gathering to celebrate the graduating classes from Cardiovascular Disease and Interventional Cardiology. Smiles, laughter, and the typical cardiology “roasting” that we hadn’t experienced in 2020.

Midwest Cardiology Update and Review Course is a board review course that will provide an intensive review of cardiology for physicians preparing for the initial or recertification examination in Cardiovascular Disease. The course will also allow an in-depth review with recent updates for physicians practicing internal medicine and cardiology.

Objective
- As a result of participating in this activity, participants should be able to apply evidence-based medicine to answer clinical questions related to cardiovascular diseases and problems faced in daily practice.
- Self-assessment to appreciate personal strengths and weaknesses for focused self-study in preparation for certification/recertification for cardiology board exam.

This course will be offered in a hybrid environment. Limited onsite space will be available for participants at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. CDC and institutional COVID-19 guidelines will be followed. The course will also be available in real-time virtually.

Course Leadership:
- Naseer Khan, MD
  Program Director, Interventional Cardiology Fellowship
  Division of Cardiovascular Health and Disease
  University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
- Anisiia Doytchinova, MD
  Program Director, Cardiac Imaging Fellowship
  Division of Cardiovascular Health and Disease
  University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
- Obadah Aqbash, MD
  Chief Fellow, Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program
  Division of Cardiovascular Health and Disease
  University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

Return of UC Cardiology fellowship programs night at Cincinnati Reds. @uc_health @uccardiology @Uchealthnews @uc

We Welcomed Two New Program Directors

Naseer Khan, MD
Program Director, Interventional Cardiology Fellowship

Anisiia Doytchinova, MD
Program Director, Cardiac Imaging Fellowship
UC RWANDA INITIATIVE Led by Drs. Kerr and Wexler:

Originally planned as a bidirectional training opportunity, the program adapted to limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic by moving the curriculum to a virtual platform delivering high quality didactics with accompanying reading assignments, quizzes, and case-based discussion. In total, thirty-six lectures have been delivered since summer of 2020. All materials, including recorded lectures are accessible to the Rwandan trainees on a UC based platform. A structured curriculum is being developed for both visiting faculty from UC and Rwandan trainees with exchange planned to start in 2022.

There are fewer than 10 cardiologists in Rwanda serving 12 million people. Formal cardiovascular training in Rwanda is lacking due to lack of specialists and organized training programs. The University of Cincinnati Rwanda Initiative was created under the University of Cincinnati Foundation in 2019, to support the efforts of a formal cardiovascular training program in collaboration between the University of Cincinnati (UC), the University of Rwanda College of Medicine and Health Sciences (UR/CMHS), King Faisal Hospital, The University Teaching Hospital of Kigali, and Rwanda Ministry of Health.

Fellows Ramesh, Suter, and Aqtash enjoying a UC Basketball game with visiting Cardiologist from Rwanda, Dr. Amah Mchesha.
Interventional Cardiology Fellows Mahida and Souka attending TCT 2021 w/ Dr. Saad Ahmad.

Cardiovascular Disease Fellows Rao, Said, Ramesh, Aqtash, Sibilia, Pivato, Li, Jilani, Saleem, Stacey, Wells, Nimri, Zulfiqar, German, and Suter enjoying “Fellowsgiving” at Hofbrauhaus.

2021 Cardiovascular Disease Alum, Dr. Patricio Alzamora presenting at TCT 2021.

UC Medical School:
The fellowship has also been involved in teaching/mentoring UC Medical Students regarding valvular disease (Ahmad Said, Nicholas Biondi & Dr. David Harris), research (Maryam Saleem & Blair Suter) and career development sessions (Erica Pivato).
**CVICU Primer Series:**
During the COVID19 pandemic, in person lectures to residents rotating on Cardiology services stopped due to limitations on gathering size. We received feedback from residents hoping to have more dedicated education on more complicated topics that are addressed in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit. With leadership from Advanced Heart Failure attending Dr. Jennifer Cook, fellows – Dr. Blair Suter, Dr. Richard Hajjar, and Dr. Konstantin German- and future Cardiology fellows – Dr. Sneha Sharma, Dr. Demetrio Sharp Dimitri, and Dr. Muhammed Khan- developed a CVICU primer series of videos uploaded on The Silver Fridge website ([https://www.thesilverfridge.com/cvicu-primer-series](https://www.thesilverfridge.com/cvicu-primer-series)). Primer videos include Guideline Directed Medical Therapy in HFrEF, Mechanical Circulatory Support, Transplant, and Hemodynamic Monitoring. The videos were published October 31st 2021 and received over 200 views in the first month.

Dr. Kerr's top of the line chalk talk ECHO lectures at the VAMC.

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Donations to the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Innovative Education fund via the link [https://foundation.uc.edu/donate/CFIEF](https://foundation.uc.edu/donate/CFIEF) or mail:
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program
231 Albert Sabin Way, MLC 0542
Cincinnati, Ohio 45267

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**Internal Medicine Residency:**
The Cardiology fellowship has been involved in the IM residency Academic Half Day & Hands-on Echo Simulation. Maryam Saleem, Nicholas Biondi, Richard Hajjar, Erica Pivato, Tushar Ramesh and Dr. David Harris

Make sure to follow the fellowship programs on Twitter and Facebook.

**UC Cardiology**
@uccardiology
Division Fellows Scholarly Activity January-December 2021:


Athar MW, Rajsheker S, Muth J, Costea AI, Joshi KR. Insertion Of Coronary Sinus Lead Utilizing Intracardiac Echocardiogram, 3D Electro-anatomical Mapping, 3D Printed Heart Model And Fluoroscopy In A Patient With Marfan Syndrome And Pectus Excavatum. Heart Rhythm 2021, Jul 28-31; Boston, MA.


Nimri, N. Disseminated Blastomycosis with Tricuspid Valve Endocarditi. Case Report presented at IDSA week.


**Suter B**, Kay W., Kuhlenhoelter A., Ebenroth E. Does reduced cardiopulmonary exercise testing performance predict poorer quality of life in adult patients with Fontan physiology? Cardiol Young. 2021 Jan;31(1):84-90.


