Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery
Advanced Fellowship Training Program in Cardiothoracic Surgery

A. Program Demographics

Host Institution: Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Program Specialty: Adult Cardiothoracic Surgery

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B. Introduction

The Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine has offered advanced fellowship training in cardiac and thoracic surgery to foreign medical graduates since 1998. The duration is typically one year, usually from July through June with 3-4 such fellows at any given time on the service. Applicants must normally have completed either the American Board of Thoracic Surgery requirements or their equivalence in cardiothoracic surgery training abroad.

The fellowship program is structured to provide the trainee with a well-rounded advanced theoretical and clinical education and operative experience covering all aspects of cardiac and thoracic pathology and its current treatment. Towards this goal, the fellow is given incremental responsibility, under close supervision, in all phases of the cardiothoracic patient’s care, including preoperative evaluation, diagnosis, operative or non-operative management, intraoperative treatment and follow-up care in the outpatient department. Residents are able to focus their training in one or more of the following areas:

- Mitral valve reconstruction
- Complex aortic surgery
- Minimally invasive thoracic surgery
- Surgery for heart failure
These non-standard clinical training programs, although not an ACGME approved residency position, are directly associated with the ACGME approved Cardiothoracic Surgery program at The Mount Sinai Medical Center program, #460-35-11-064.

C. Resources

All members of the full time faculty of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery will be involved in the teaching of non ACGME-fellows. Members of the Department are:

- David H. Adams, MD, Professor & Chairman, Program Director
- Anelechi Anyanwu, MD, Associate Professor
- Daniel Beckles, MD, Assistant Professor
- Joanna Chikwe, MD, Assistant Professor, Associate Program Director
- Cynthia S. Chin, MD, Assistant Professor
- Farzan Filsoufi, MD, Associate Professor
- Gabriel Di Luozzo, MD, Assistant Professor
- Randall B. Griepp, MD, Professor
- Ramachandra C. Reddy, MD, Assistant Professor
- Paul Stelzer, MD, Associate Professor
- Todd S. Weiser, MD, Assistant Professor

All training will take place on The Mount Sinai Medical Center campus

D. Educational Program

The fellow will perform operative procedures as the primary surgeon at the Attendings discretion. During the fellowship year, it is expected that the operative experience will have included all aspects of adult cardiac surgery including coronary artery bypass, valvular surgery including valve repair, aneurysm surgery including ascending aorta, aortic arch, descending thoracic aorta and thoracoabdominal aortic replacement and repair. The program will provide the trainee with factual knowledge and technical skills in the preoperative evaluation, operative management and postoperative care of these patients.

Particular care is taken to ensure that the educational requirements of the non-ACGME fellows do not compromise the educational experience of the ACGME residents: rotations of non-ACGME fellows are therefore planned around established ACGME residents who’s operative and clinical educational requirements take priority, and whose progress is reviewed semi-annually so that adjustments can be made to clinical allocations if required. The case-mix and volume is such that all residents and fellows achieve their educational goals.
Besides this wide ranging clinical training, the fellow is given the opportunity and encouraged to attend the various educational activities organized by the department or in which the department is a major participant such as our weekly Grand Rounds and monthly Mortality and Morbidity, and Journal conferences.

Fellows are also encouraged to participate in the scientific output of the Department. If the fellow expresses interest in the ongoing research activity in the cardiothoracic laboratory, he is given the opportunity to participate without interfering with his clinical training.

E. Evaluation

There will be regular meetings with Dr. David H. Adams, Chairman of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery and his staff to provide formal feedback regarding performance. There are weekly departmental meetings to review cases to be prepared by the fellow and presented for analysis and critique. Fellows may elect to undergo 360’ semianual evaluation according to the ACGME competencies, and participate in faculty and program evaluation and improvement.