

**NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTORS' COUNCIL**

**Summary of Group Project or Activities – Posted June 2024**

Name of Project or Activity	Description	Project Status (New, Ongoing, Complete, Near Completion, Long Term, Abandoned)
Activity 1: 2024 SF Match	Annual Fellowship Application/Match	Ongoing
Activity 2: Dual Program Match	Annual Dual Program Match	Ongoing
Activity 3: Update Application	Fellow application used on SF Match	Ongoing
Activity 4: Standardized LOR	Hybrid approach approved	Ongoing
Activity 5: Suvery Graduated Fellows	Why did you go into cardiac anes?	New
Activity 6: Website for open positions		New

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTS (if any)**

**Requests for Board of Directors Consideration** • Action / Request 1: The council requests support for creating space on the SCA website for posting open fellowship positions throughout the year. This has the potential to drive more traffic to the SCA website and keeps the SCA as the main driver for fellowship education and training.

**POSTED NOVEMBER 2023**

**Summary of Group Meeting 1 - Date: May 7, 2023**

The meeting primarily revolved around the national problem of less fellows applying to greater numbers of available fellowship positions. This is a problem for all one-year anesthesia fellowships. Specific actions for the ACTA council included creating networking events, discuss with the SCA regarding branding/marketing, and make this topic a primary discussion item at the next SAAAPM. Each cardiac anesthesia program needs to make a strategic plan for how to handle a drop in workforce if this trend continues. In addition to the topic above, the council made plans for updating the common application and discussed greater use of a standard recommendation letter.

The group listened to a presentation from Dr. Bhmesh Patel regarding ECMO education for fellows and standardizing the education across programs. Dr. Patel is going to work with members of the council to further develop the project.

Further work was discussed regarding the possibility of a Dual ACTA/CCM match.

The group is interested in creating a more standard process for communicating open fellowship positions. We are going to communicate with OBGYN programs regarding a clearing house they use for open positions.

The council received an update about the ACR Review Course – it will be available in July.

**COLLABORATION**

1. We regularly collaborate with the CCM fellowship directors regarding planning for 2-year fellowships and the possibility of the combined ACTA/CCM match.
2. Many of our council members are leading or writing for the ACR Review Course.

3. The entire council meets at the SAAPM every November in Chicago.
4. We run our annual match through SF Match.

#### **FUTURE PROJECTS**

1. Creation of a common recommendation letter specific for cardiothoracic anesthesia fellowships.
2. Creation of the match process for two-year dual ACTA/CCM candidates for fellowship.
3. Marketing strategy for going into cardiothoracic anesthesia.
4. PD fellowship handbook for new PDs.
5. Creation of expectations or common education for interventional echocardiography in fellowship programs.

#### **POSTED JUNE 2022**

##### **Summary of Group Meeting 1:**

- Date: 3/29/2022
- Summary of Discussion: The primary focus of this meeting was to make sure every program is detailed and prepared for the application and interview process for one- and two-year applicants. We discussed how exception agreements work and new this year is the posting of exception agreement on the SCA website. The group confirmed that virtual interviews will be the dominate format utilized by PDs this year and in the future. The PD group feels that creating an exam review program for fellows is an important initiative that the SCA should develop. The plan is to submit another collaborative proposal to the SCA. Two new working groups were discussed and a new initiative was tasked to an existing working group:
  - o The two-year combined fellowship working group is going to collaborate with our critical care colleagues to further refine the applications process and discuss the merits of a new match process for two-year combined applicants; Create an ABA Exam Review working group to create a review program for fellows and possibly SCA members; Create POCUS/TTE curriculum working group to collaborate with our critical care colleagues to develop a report for the PD council and eventually to the RRC.

##### **Summary of Group Meeting 2:**

- Date: 10/10/2021
- Summary of Discussion: An ABA exam update was given by Chris Troianos. SF Match data for 2021 was reviewed with the council. It was noted that the rank lists submitted statistic was down by 51 applicants. The SCA mobile app was discussed extensively. The goal was to inform PDs of the usefulness of the app and to encourage its use by fellows and residents. ACTA Case Log Improvement ideas were discussed with the PDs. The improvement suggestions were submitted to the ACGME. The group discussed ideas for a New PD education process. The proposal for an ABA exam review was turned down by the BOD, but the PDs want to continue to create a process for ABA exam review for the fellows. A new proposal was planned for submission.

##### **COLLABORATION** The PD council is:

- o Working with the On-line Education Subcommittee and the QSL committee to develop a proposal for an on-line ABA exam review education program for fellows. This will be submitted in a separate proposal; In active collaboration creating and enhancing content on the SCA app with the SCA Mobile App Subcommittee; Regularly interacting with SF match regarding the entire application process for ACTA Fellowships; Regularly interacting with the ACGME regarding program evaluation and curriculum; Regularly collaborating with SOCCA PDs regarding the application process for two-year combined fellowships.

**FUTURE PROJECTS** Proposed Agenda for the May ACTA PD Council Annual Meeting:

- Review the match process for one-year fellowships.
- Discuss our annual survey of applicants after the match process is complete.
- New PD Education
- ABA exam review for fellows
- Develop a fellow email list from SF match – how can we utilize this for projects and improvement

**POSTED JUNE 2021**

**Summary of Group Meeting 1: October 29, 2020**

- Preparation for the SAAA meeting November 9-13, 2020.
- Updated deadline for abstracts to November 25, 2020.
- Reviewed updating fellowship program information on the SCA website.
- Encouraged PDs to have fellows download the SCA phone app.
- Discussed the application cycle for two-year fellowship applicants.
  - Action: Work with SF match so residents do not have to pay for the match in their second-year application – Shook (in process)
  - Action: Post the two-year application cycle process on the SCA website – Shook (done)
- Discussed the exception agreement process for the upcoming application cycle.
  - Action: Post exception agreements so PDs can view them prior to submitting rank lists – Shook (done)
- Dr. Bottiger and Dr. Sumler updated the council regarding the Online Education Subcommittee. It was noted that topics or themes the council would like to see include board preparation, short pod casts, didactics, and practice tests.
  - Action: Submit topics for fellowship education – Council (done)
  - Action: Dr. Bottiger will present the chosen topics at the next meeting – Bottiger (done)
- Dr. Brakke updated the council regarding the fellow session at the upcoming SCA Annual Meeting.
- Discussed the current timeline for creating a cardiac anesthesia subspecialty board.
  - Action: At an upcoming meeting have someone from the task force present the council – Shook
- Discussed further incorporating MS Teams into the regular workings of the council. The council is currently using MS Teams as a discussion arena between meetings. Dr. Perry noted that they are using Teams to create an upcoming shared education conference between several fellowship programs.
  - Action: Create channels for each workgroup so they can easily discuss topics. – Shook (done)
- The council discussed the process of better utilizing virtual interviews for the upcoming application and interview cycle.

**Summary of Group Meeting 2: March 25, 2021**

- Discussed the current application cycle for both one-year and two-year applicants.

- Reviewed the entire match process for both one- and two-year applicants.
- Reviewed the exception agreement process. Completed exception agreements will be posted weekly on MS Teams for PDs to review.
- Dr. Dubovoy started a discussion regarding the ACGME Common Application changes that are up for review regarding administrative time for PDs and program administrators. It was decided that more time was needed for a good discussion by the PDs so they can review the information.
  - Action: Setup a meeting for March 29 – Shook (done)
  - Action: Add an entry in MS Teams with links to the information to be reviewed and start a conversation to prepare for the meeting – Shook (done)
- The next meeting will be before the rank lists are due and an optimal date was discussed. Workgroups will prepare for presentations at that meeting and make plans for work that will be completed over the summer.
  - Action: Setup a meeting for May 20 – Shook (done)

**Summary of Group Meeting 3: March 29, 2020**

- The group reviewed the documents for common program requirements for one-year fellowship programs on the ACGME website.
- The group discussed that the changes proposed created generalized wording for the support of PDs and program administrators and shifted the specifics to the ACTA sub-specialty program requirements. The council was comfortable with the proposed changes in the common program requirements as it related to ACTA specific sub-specialty requirements. No further action was required.