GUIDE TO FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

April 2016

WEILL DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
NEW YORK-PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL
WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE

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http://www.cornellmedicine.com/education/index.html
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CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Our Residents in recent years have had extraordinary success in placement into Fellowship programs of their choice. This is, in part, a tribute to a strong culture of highly personalized faculty support for our Residents' career development. It also reflects an unusual level of unselfish time commitment by many of our junior and senior faculty to guiding and championing our Residents in their Fellowship applications. In turn, our excellent Residents become great ambassadors for the Weill Cornell-NYP Internal Medicine Residency Program, creating a self-amplifying pipeline to the most competitive programs.

However, the process of Fellowship application requires a reciprocal time and effort commitment on the part of our Residents to making themselves highly competitive. Our Residents must assume a proactive role in the process of their own applications. Most importantly, this can't begin only in the final, often frantic few weeks of applications. It must begin at the start of Internship. It requires our Interns and Residents to individually overcome the natural tendency to inertia concerning the application process during the first couple of years. Some specific suggestions:

- From the beginning, you should proactively cultivate faculty champions for your application. Above and beyond your assigned Attendings on various rotations, get to know some faculty members in depth. Make appointments with them to get career guidance; share with them your career aspirations; ask them about their own career development; and, especially for those with whom you relate well, follow-up with more meetings. Cultivating strong letters of support for your applications is a time-consuming but very gratifying process. Only by getting to know key faculty members in depth can you expect them to be your personal champions in securing a competitive Fellowship position.

- Your Personal Statements do matter in applications. Give yourself enough time to make them thoughtful and interesting. Don't just state what you are looking for from a Fellowship program: indicate how you will contribute to the program and, eventually, to that specialty field. (I am happy to help with drafts, if you wish: I will pull no punches in critiquing them in very specific and hopefully constructive ways. However, please give me ample lead time.)

- If you are undecided about which subspecialty you wish to choose, you are certainly not alone. Let us (including myself) help you by talking you through the options and guiding you to certain faculty members or former trainees who can provide you with more personalized advice. In many cases we can suggest exciting ways to combine what may seem to you to be very different specialties.

Even for excellent Residents in great programs like ours, the Fellowship application process can provoke considerable anxiety. The number of Fellowship positions in any given program is much smaller than in Residency programs, so matching to competitive positions is inevitably more unpredictable than what you experienced as medical students applying for Internship.
I strongly recommend to you that you not procrastinate in cultivating the strongest possible application for yourself. Time passes quickly during Residency and inertia is a powerful force. I urge you to take advantage of a great network of guidance at Weill Cornell-NYP, especially for those who seek it out proactively.

This brochure, which is updated at least once a year, provides practical information for Fellowship application in the various subspecialties. I am personally committed to ensuring that each of our Residents who seek Fellowship training secures a position in the strongest, and personally most rewarding, program possible. I would greatly enjoy meeting with you, as frequently as you wish, to help in any way I can.

**Augustine M.K. Choi, M.D.**
Sanford I. Weill Chairman and Professor of Medicine
Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College
Physician-in-Chief, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center
Message from the Program Director

The Internal Medicine Residency Program is proud of its tradition of placing our residents in top tier subspecialty fellowship. The Department of Medicine, its faculty, and the program leadership are available to help you develop professionally and provide you important career advice during your residency. Please take advantage of the wealth of opportunities you have at your disposal within the department and our academic medical community.

My personal advice about this process is to spend time during your residency to make connections with faculty and topics within medicine that can inspire you for your career. When you are passionate about what you are doing, your success is nearly guaranteed. Put yourself into new experiences during residency to figure out what you really love and find advisors and mentors who can be honest with you about your strengths and weaknesses in growing professionally.

The process to secure a Program Director letter is as follows:

1. Send your personal statement to both your faculty advisor and the program director.

2. Schedule a meeting with one of your faculty mentors within the discipline that you are applying to. The fellowship directors make themselves readily available to you for advice about programs.

3. Meet with your faculty advisor to discuss your plans. Provide them a copy of your CV and share with them what key events have led to your decision about this career. The more personalized you get, the stronger your letter will be.

4. Consider meeting with the program director if there are special considerations that are important to your application (e.g., if you are limited to one city due to a significant other or sick parent).

Look broadly at programs and seek which programs have the track record of success in the area you seek. In addition, work to understand how fellows are mentored and what opportunities and resources are available to fellows during the training period. Consider where graduates of the program end up for their careers.

We are delighted to support you through this process.

Lia S. Logio, M.D.
Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program
Herbert J. and Ann Siegel Distinguished Professor of Medicine
Vice Chair of Education
Department of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College
Message from your colleagues

Mohamed Al-Kazaz suggests,
- Start working on your personal statement in Mid-April, so it will be ready by May for review by Dr. Logio and you will save you time when apply in June/July.

During the interview season:
- Reply promptly to interview requests.
- If you have a place in mind that you really want and you did not hear from by Aug or Sept. based on the speciality, let Dr. Logio know.
- Different specialties start offering interviews at different times. For example, most Cardiology programs start offering interviews end of August and Sept., while Nephrology offer interviews as early as July.
- Dress professionally for your interviews.

Daniel Bachman suggests,
- Build relationships with faculty. Letters from people that know you well and are invested in your success make all the difference.
- Your personal statement and interviewing should be honest. Fellowship match is about fitting in a real way and this is the time to be honest with yourself about what you are looking for in a training program.

Saif Muhsin suggests,
- Try to establish a buddy system that could provide fellowship specific tips that only applicants who matched the seasons prior might know (e.g. cardiology interviews were delayed last year so you might want to take your vacation a bit later, nephrology interviews were early, etc.).
General Fellowship Application Schedule

Applications for the following fellowships use the American Association of Medical Colleges’ Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) system: cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, hematology, medical oncology, infectious diseases, nephrology, pulmonary disease/critical care medicine and rheumatology. All applications should be submitted through ERAS. Once the application is complete, applicants will use the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) to match to the program.

Application Timeline for Fellowship Training Beginning July 1, 2017

June 9, 2016: MyERAS website becomes open to applicants. Applicants begin posting their applications to the ERAS system.

July 15, 2016: ERAS Post Office Opens. Institutions/Programs download the posted ERAS applications.

August-November 2016: Institutions schedule and conduct interviews.

October 5th, 2016: Rank Order List Opens on NRMP site (Medicine Subspecialties)

November 16, 2016: Rank Order List Closes.

December 7, 2016: Match Day.

July 1, 2017: Fellowships Begin.
Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Application Guide

The Fellowship Program in the Maurice R. and Corinne P. Greenberg Division of Cardiology at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York-Presbyterian Hospital is a three or four-year program that prepares highly qualified candidates for careers in investigative and clinical cardiology. Our program is one of approximately 170 programs accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and participates in the Match conducted by the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP). Starting in 2012, the Internal Medicine Subspecialty Match will be held in December of the year prior to the start of fellowship.

After three years of training, candidates are eligible for board certification in cardiovascular disease, but would require at least one more year of training to subspecialize in interventional cardiology, electrophysiology, advanced imaging or heart failure. Our fellows receive comprehensive experience in all major clinical and laboratory aspects of contemporary cardiology under the close supervision of full-time staff. In addition, all fellows are expected to participate in one or more areas of ongoing research during their training.

Instructions to Applicants

Physicians who will have completed an ACGME-accredited internal medicine residency may apply to the New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program. All application materials must be sent to the fellowship program via the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). To register and submit your application, please visit the ERAS website at www.aamc.org/services/eras/. Once all applications have been received and reviewed, applicants will be notified if an interview is granted. NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate with regard to sex, color, creed, religion, sexual preference, or disability.

It is required that all fellows have a current New York State License and Registration and a current DEA number. Information and application for New York State License can be found at the New York State Education Department website: www.nysed.gov. All fellows are required to maintain appropriate immigration status at all times. NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell sponsors a variety of visas for foreign nationals, depending on the position, salary, and length of commitment. We do not sponsor H1-B visas. Once an applicant has made a firm commitment to NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell in regard to a fellowship, Human Resources will provide the forms that are needed to obtain the required information to access your potential for varying visas.

Instructions to Applicants

Cardiology participates in the ERAS-NRMP July Application cycle. Please check each individual program's website for exact requirements.

Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)
ERAS Program Code: 1413521202

National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)
NRMP Match Number: 1492141F0

For Fellowship Start Date of July 1, 2017
Fellowship at Weill Cornell Medical Center/New York-Presbyterian Hospital

The Cardiology Fellowship is based at the Weill Cornell Campus of New York-Presbyterian Hospital and includes clinical and research resources at our neighboring sister institution the Hospital for Special Surgery. Clinical and research opportunities at both institutions are an integral part of the program, which is designed to train physicians interested in developing academic and clinical careers in cardiology. The 4.5 acres surrounding the hospital contains one of the largest concentrations of biomedical research and care anywhere in the world. The program integrates a broad-based, in-depth clinical and research experience in order to deliver the highest-quality academic training to cardiology professionals. Clinical care is the focus of the first two years, while the third and fourth years involve a more intensive, mentored experience in a particular clinical subspecialty or in basic research. Every fellow is expected to be productive in research, and an additional year (or more) of training/research in a subspecialty area can be arranged, as indicated.

The clinical experience at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell is unsurpassed and includes rotations in the cardiac intensive care unit and cardiac step-down units, the inpatient consultation service at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, and the Hospital for Special Surgery, the cardiac catheterization lab, electrophysiology lab, cardiac graphics, heart failure, echocardiography, cardiac CT/ MRI, vascular medicine and nuclear cardiology. Fellows spend one half-day per week in the outpatient clinic in adult cardiology. The fellows are trained and supervised clinically with one-on-one teaching by senior faculty. Didactic sessions include a full introductory curriculum, weekly curriculum throughout the year, Prevention and Management Conference, Imaging Conference, Clinical Case Conferences, a weekly Journal Club Cardiology Grand Rounds, and subspecialty conferences in catheterization and electrophysiology. Fellowship research projects generally tie in with ongoing research activities within the program. Each fellow’s research experience is coordinated by a faculty mentor of his/her choosing. For fellows pursuing basic science or translational research, a master’s degree in science is offered over a two-year period (these courses are scheduled into years two, three, or four). Fellows pursuing a project in clinical research are encouraged to pursue a certificate in clinical investigation. All fellows are expected to present the results of their research at regional and national meetings.

The clinical experience at the New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell is also extraordinary in its breadth and attending physician availability. The Department of Medicine has approximately 17,000 admissions per year of which more than 3,000 are admitted to the cardiology inpatient service. Approximately 2,500 cardiology patients are seen in an ambulatory setting each year. A broad range of cardiologic problems is assessed at New York-Presbyterian, including complex congenital heart disease, advanced heart failure, and pulmonary hypertension. The invasive cardiac laboratories perform all diagnostic catheterizations, percutaneous interventions (including all types of coronary stents, ASD and PFO closures, Percutaneous Aortic Valve Replacements (TAVR), and all peripheral vascular interventions) and electrophysiological studies (including ablations of atrial and ventricular arrhythmias and device implantation). We are also actively enrolling patients in large clinical trials, including those evaluating new stents, mitral valve repair, and implantation of closure devices for paravalvular regurgitation.

The Weill Cornell Cardiology Fellowship Program is dedicated to advancing knowledge in both basic and clinical research. The research program is strongly supported by multiple federal and non-federal grants. The research is performed on-site in recently renovated, state-of-the-art laboratory facilities. The researchers cover most traditional and emerging areas of cardiovascular research, including atherosclerosis, vascular physiology, electrophysiology and arrhythmia, stem cells and cell therapy, cardiac development, stroke and thrombosis, heart failure, interventional devices, and health policy. Seventy percent of Weill Cornell cardiology faculty members participate in world-class basic science, translational or clinical research, and 30 percent are full-time clinical cardiologists involved in clinical investigation and/or teaching.
**General Advice**

Selection of fellows from among eligible applicants will be made on the basis of their preparedness, ability, aptitude, academic credentials, communication skills, and personal qualities such as motivation and integrity.

If you are interested in an academic career, it is important to demonstrate some research experience in your application. Letters of recommendation are also very important. A letter from a renowned cardiologist who says that you are one of the top five people they have ever worked with will carry more weight than a similar letter from an instructor. At the same time, however, you should request letters from people who know you well and can attest to your strengths. Brief letters from famous people who spent very little time with you won’t carry much weight.

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Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism Fellowship Application Guide

In academic year 2016, 270 physicians participated entered their first year of fellowship in one of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)’s 136 endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism fellowship programs. In general, planning for ACGME fellowship in endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism begins during the PGY2 year to facilitate the fellowship application and match process which starts on July 1 of PGY3.

Instructions to Applicants

Endocrinology participates in the ERAS-NRMP July Application cycle. Please check each individual program’s website for exact requirements.

Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)
ERAS Program Code: 1433521136

National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)
NRMP Match Number: 1492143F0

For Fellowship Start Date of July 1, 2017
Application Deadline: August, 15th, 2016 (WCMC’s Endocrine Fellowship Program Download Date).
Interview Dates: WCMC Interview Days are by invitation only and are tentatively scheduled for end of September through October 2016.

Weill Cornell Endocrine Fellowship Application Requirements

The Weill Cornell program requires the following, submitted via ERAS:
- ERAS Common Application Form (CAF) with CV
- Three letters of recommendation — including one letter from the director of your residency program
- Personal statement
- ECFMG status report (international medical graduates only)
- USMLE transcript
- Wallet-sized color photograph
- Optional — Medical student performance evaluation and medical school transcript

All applicants to this program must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents at the time of application (on or before 09/10/2015.) The fellowship program does not sponsor any visas at this time. (If you hold an EAD in anticipation of a green card, please contact the program coordinator.) Additionally, fellowship candidates must be able to meet the appointment requirements of all three institutions, including the procurement of a New York State Medical License by July 1, 2016.

Fellowship at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York-Presbyterian Hospital

The Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism Fellowship is a comprehensive two-year training program that provides unique, in-depth clinical and academic experience in the field of endocrinology. Endocrine fellows receive a wide range of didactic instruction and clinical training in the inpatient and ambulatory
facilities of three premier medical institutions: New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and the Hospital for Special Surgery. The first year of the fellowship focuses on intensive clinical training, while the second year emphasizes clinical, translational, or basic research. Our fellows are actively involved in shaping their education, gain hands-on experience teaching residents and medical students, and receive individualized instruction from nationally renowned clinicians and researchers.

Rotations: Fellows divide their time between New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and the Hospital for Special Surgery. The program's 12 rotations enable fellows to see inpatient consults, participate in outpatient clinics, and attend academic conferences at all three institutions. At New York-Presbyterian Hospital, fellows diagnose and treat patients with general endocrine and metabolic disorders, and participate in a weekly Continuity Care Fellows' Clinic. At the Hospital for Special Surgery, fellows gain experience in the diagnosis and treatment of metabolic bone diseases, and at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center they receive unique training in thyroid malignancies and endocrine tumors. During the second year, fellows work directly with expert faculty in endocrine subspecialty clinics. Each program rotation requires fellows to be actively involved in the evaluation of cases, and fellows often follow patients on subsequent visits. These rotations also provide the opportunity for fellows to gain teaching skills while supervising residents and medical students on elective.

Research: During the second year of the program, fellows have the opportunity to conduct research at any of the three sponsoring institutions, as well as The Rockefeller University. Based on individual interest and past research experience, fellows may select mentors from a wide range of disciplines in both basic and clinical research. Our faculty's research interests include thyroid cancer, diabetes mellitus, obesity, and calcium and bone metabolism. Our faculty are committed to conducting promising, state-of-the-art research and have on-going projects in the areas of thyroid cancer, diabetes mellitus, obesity, and calcium and bone metabolism. Furthermore, the Endocrine Division Chief, Dr. Imperato-McGinley, is also the Director of Weill Cornell's NIH-funded Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC). By the completion of their second year, fellows are expected to have prepared at least one study for presentation at a national conference or publication in a peer-reviewed journal. As appropriate, fellows may choose to continue their training with an optional third year of fellowship devoted to further research.

General Advice

Think about your career goals (clinical, basic science, or translational research; private practice; etc.). Will the program’s curriculum and resources adequately prepare you for this career? If you are interested in an academic career, you should prepare for additional years of research. Only two years of endocrinology fellowship training are required by the ACGME and ABIM, but many institutions offer an additional 12 months of fellowship dedicated to further research. Will additional research years be funded by the program? Does the program have a T32 training grant to support fellow research? Do fellows of this program routinely receive research grants? Can fellows obtain auxiliary training through the program or institution (for example, a master's degree in clinical investigation)?

When planning your application, at least one letter of recommendation should come from a faculty mentor who is an endocrinologist. If you have been involved in a research project, it would help to have your research mentor write a letter about you and your work. Check each program’s specific requirements for letters of recommendation. Does the program require a letter from the Chair of Medicine, your Residency Program Director, etc.? Ask for these letters in advance to allow sufficient time for the letters to be written and posted to ERAS by the program’s application deadline.

Be sure to list all of your publications, abstracts, or presentations in your application. If you are involved in research, include and describe any ongoing projects. If you are interested in a particular area of
research and the program has a faculty member in that area, ask if you could meet him or her during your visit. Be prepared to discuss your past and present research endeavors with program faculty.

Prepare for your interview by reviewing the program or institution’s website. This will help focus your questions pertaining to the program and your academic interests. Most programs will allow time for you to meet with current fellows. This meeting is often quite helpful in assessing how well the program fits your interests.

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Gastroenterology and Hepatology Fellowship Application Guide

Given the developments of recent years, gastroenterology is among the most exciting and dynamic subspecialties within medicine. The multitude of challenges and opportunities that are on the horizon are limitless, and the need for astute and motivated trainees with strong clinical or basic science research potential is growing. Over the past five years, GI fellowship training programs have increased their number of matched candidates and we have been slowly increasing our program from a total of 6 fellows in 2012 to 9 in 2015.

Instructions to Applicants

Gastroenterology participates in the ERAS-NRMP July Application cycle. Please check each individual program’s website for exact requirements.

Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)
ERAS Program Code: 1443521171

National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)
NRMP Match Number: 1492144F0

For Fellowship Start Date of July 1, 2017
Application Deadline: Accepted between July 1, 2016 and July 31, 2016
Interview Dates: September - October 2016

Fellowship at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York-Presbyterian Hospital

The Weill Cornell Fellowship in Gastroenterology and Hepatology is a three-year program located at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. The fellowship seeks to attract the best and brightest trainees who have an interest in pursuing a career in academic medicine. Our fellowship program offers a full range of conferences and extensive interaction with highly skilled gastrointestinal pathologists, interventional and diagnostic radiologists, and surgeons. In addition, our fellows have the opportunity to work with and teach an outstanding group of Weill Cornell medical students and house officers. At the present time, three fellows are accepted into the program annually.

The first year is largely consultative. Fellows maintain a weekly ambulatory patient practice from which they derive many of their outpatient procedures. Inpatient activities involve an active consult service, daily endoscopy, and a broad range of conferences. First-year fellows are on call an average of one weekend per month and one weeknight per week.

Second- and third-year fellows assume the remainder of the weeknight and weekend call. Six months of the second year of the fellowship is protected for participation in clinical or basic research. Third-year fellows continue the research projects developed and generated in their second year. They also have an opportunity to pursue specific areas of interest in inflammatory bowel disease, hepatology, liver transplantation, and cancer screening and prevention.

Major clinical programs and research efforts are based at our Jill Roberts Center for Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Jay Monahan Center for Gastrointestinal Health, and the Center for Liver Diseases and Transplantation.

Fellows are expected to be involved in basic or clinical research. Opportunities for basic research exist at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, The Rockefeller University, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. The newly established Jill Roberts Institute for Research in Inflammatory Bowel Disease conducts pioneering investigations into the microbiome.

Fellows are expected to submit abstracts to local and national meetings, prepare original papers for submission to peer-reviewed journals, and develop clinical protocols under the tutelage of a faculty mentor.
There is a didactic program available for training in clinical investigation, involving course work in epidemiology, clinical trial study design, biostatistics, outcomes assessment, and ethics of research. Additionally, there are numerous Masters programs offered in Clinical Research and Health Care Policy which an interested fellow can obtain during the three year fellowship.

**Rotations:** First-year fellows spend most of the year on the GI consult service at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical College. They spend one month at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, which is located directly across the street from New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell. They also have a one-month elective block. Second-year fellows spend two months on the liver transplantation service at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center. The transplant program is jointly run between the two campuses of NYPH under the direction of director of the transplant fellowship, Dr. Robert Brown and Elizabeth Verna. Fellows are integrated into a call schedule while on this rotation to maximize their learning experience. The fellows also spend one month each at the Jill Roberts Center for Inflammatory Bowel Disease, at the Jay Monahan Center for Gastrointestinal Health, rotating on both the small bowel and the advanced endoscopy services. Third-year fellows have minimal programmatic requirements other than additional months of work on hepatology, inflammatory bowel disease, and nutrition. The bulk of the year can be tailored to the particular fellow's interests. This may include advanced endoscopic procedures, basic research in the laboratory, or the pursuit of advanced degrees in outcomes research.

**Research:** There are a number of ongoing research activities by both full-time and voluntary faculty. They include basic research into cancer chemoprevention under the direction of Dr. Andrew Dannenberg, hepatitis C under the direction of Dr. Charles Rice at the Center for the Study of Hepatitis C at The Rockefeller University, and mucosal immunology with Dr. David Artis. There are many opportunities to participate in clinical research in areas such as hepatology, inflammatory bowel disease, cancer screening, endoscopic ultrasound, the microbiota of the GI tract, endoscopic imaging techniques, etc. Furthermore, there are numerous multicenter clinical trials of novel therapies for Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, hepatitis C, and irritable bowel syndrome that are under active investigation.

Any introduction to a fellowship in gastroenterology would be incomplete without a discussion of endoscopy. The Endoscopy Suite is a full-service unit that utilizes state of the art equipment with high-definition and narrow-band imaging capabilities. There are rooms for conventional endoscopy, pediatric endoscopy, and advanced endoscopy. The Endoscopy Suite is an all-video endoscopy suite that is fully automated with an image management system, and has an automated record keeping system as well as emergency equipment. The Advanced Endoscopy Room has digital fluoroscopy for ERCP, both radial array and linear array endoscopic ultrasound. Additionally, ultrasound probes are available for through-the-scope usage. Fellows participate in the full spectrum of technologies available to them in the Endoscopy Suite. Fellows conduct daily endoscopy sessions with faculty for their inpatients and ambulatory patients. Over the course of training, fellows will generally perform more than 600 upper endoscopies, 300 colonoscopies, and a significant number of EUs and ERCPs.

**General Advice**

The faculty and program leadership are supportive of the Weill Cornell/NYPH applicants: consultation with them before preparing an application is encouraged. Please take care that your letters of recommendation are submitted before ERAS opens — which means that you need to have completed your CV and personal statement early enough to give to your letter-writers well in advance.

The greater New York City area has a multitude of programs, but we would encourage you, if your family situation allows it, to think broadly as well as locally. Our graduates have garnered advanced degrees and competitive fourth-year fellowship slots, have been appointed to faculty across the country, and have embarked upon successful clinical careers.
While clinical achievement is of the utmost importance, academic programs look to the research portfolio as an important measure of both the applicant’s commitment to gastroenterology and future potential. Becoming involved in projects as a PGY1 helps set the stage for a completed endeavor at the time of application. We strive to ensure that all of our residents train at the best possible programs, and strive to help mentor them accordingly when determining which programs they will apply to and then what their rank order should be. To that end, Dr. Carl Crawford (Program Director) and the Division Leadership make themselves available to residents and strongly encourage personal meetings as the process unfolds.

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Geriatrics Fellowship Application Guide

Geriatric fellowship programs are based in internal medicine and family medicine programs (applicants can have completed either residency.) J-1 visa holders are also eligible to apply. Some programs offer both one-year and two-year positions. All programs must offer acute care, outpatient care, long-term care, and home care experience. Palliative care is usually offered as well.

Fellowship applications must be completed through the American Association of Medical College’s Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), which is accessed online.

Instructions to Applicants

Geriatrics began participating in the NRMP match in the 2013-14 application cycle. Applicants must be graduates of an accredited U.S. internal medicine or family medicine residency. Most programs require three letters of recommendation; one from your program director and the other two by faculty. These letters are to be submitted with the ERAS application. The personal statement and interview are important and offer you the opportunity to express your interest in geriatrics. Research interest and experience is appreciated but not required. Please check each individual program’s website for exact requirements.

Fellowship at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York-Presbyterian Hospital

The primary goal of the Weill Cornell Geriatrics Fellowship Program is to train future clinical and academic experts in geriatric medicine. Clinical training occurs in all settings appropriate for a practicing geriatrician. These include acute-care hospitals, nursing homes, patients’ homes, hospices, continuing care communities, and ambulatory clinics. Fellows are also given the opportunity to fine-tune their teaching skills via lectures, supervision of medical trainees, and experiences in community health education. Formal didactic experiences include a core curriculum in geriatrics, journal clubs, fellows’ conferences, research seminars, grand rounds (medical and geriatric), and clinical conferences. Fellows have the opportunity to participate in the variety of quality improvement and clinical research initiatives underway within the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine. Individual fellow’s research interests are matched with the array of mentors available within the Division and Department to help support the fellows. Fellows also have the opportunity to submit their clinical or research work to national conferences.

General Advice

Geriatric medicine is still a “young” and under-populated specialty; many areas of research await investigation, and clinician-educators are in demand. Geriatricians must have a broad range of skills in teaching, clinical work, research, and administration. Successful applicants will demonstrate a sincere passion for and commitment to the care of older adults. They must also show an interest in both research and clinical practice. Applicants are encouraged to speak to the program staff or division faculty, both of whom will be happy to help them explore training and career options.

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Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship Application Guide

The application process for Palliative Care fellowships will begin to follow the NRMP Match timeline starting July 2015. Palliative Care fellowship programs are usually one year in duration. Many people choose to pursue a palliative medicine fellowship before or after training in another subspecialty of internal medicine.

Fellowship applications are completed through the American Association of Medical College’s Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), which is accessed online. Information regarding registration, policies, and procedures can be found on the ERAS website: www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm.

Instructions to Applicants

Many but not all programs participate in ERAS. Applicants must be graduates of an accredited U.S. residency program. Please check each individual program’s website for exact requirements.

Application Timeline for Fellowship Training Beginning July 1, 2017

August-November 2016: Applicants apply through ERAS and are offered interviews.

November 2016: Rank list due

December 7, 2016 Match Day

General Advice

Palliative Care fellowship is a one year fellowship. It is a rapidly growing field, inter-disciplinary and requires a broad range of medical skills and communication skills. The personal statement is considered a very important part of your application. Starting in July 2015, Weill Cornell Medical College/New York-Presbyterian Hospital will have a fellowship in conjunction with Columbia University's Fellowship in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Weill Cornell Medical College/NYP will be a site for the fellows to rotate on their inpatient and outpatient services.

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Health Services Research Fellowship Application Guide

Coincident with the explosion of biomedical knowledge, there has been a growing demand to translate those gains into tangible improvements in patient outcomes, quality, safety and access in cost-effective ways. Nationally, there is a shortage of investigators who have the theoretical and practical knowledge and skills to address these pressing issues in health services research. As we move toward the year 2020, we also need to reduce health disparities, improve quality of care and outcome for patients with chronic illnesses, especially for those with multiple chronic diseases, reduce costs and increase the effectiveness of care. The Weill Cornell AHRQ fellowship program can help provide the scientists to meet these challenges.

Research: The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality designates several priority areas for clinical research. During their fellowship training, fellows conduct research in these diverse priority areas including:

1. Translating Research into Practice and Policy
2. Patient Safety and Information Transfer
3. Quality Improvement
4. Patient-centered Care and Education
5. Healthcare Disparities

Fellowship at Weill Cornell/New York-Presbyterian Hospital

The goal of the T32 AHRQ Fellowship Program is to train post-residency physicians to conduct methodologically rigorous health services research in a multidisciplinary environment. The two-year training program requires participation in a formal didactic curriculum consisting of courses and seminars that are designed to provide both foundations and skills in clinical epidemiology and health services research. In addition, trainees continue to participate in a series of multidisciplinary conferences and methodology meetings, as well as interact in their own weekly seminar, working with each other and devoting effort to their own respective research projects. In accordance with program objectives, each trainee has begun to integrate his/her knowledge and skills to design and conduct his/her own original research project with the close supervision of the participating faculty.

Our strengths have been developing trainees to perform question-driven research in an area of their own interest, recruiting minority candidates, and requiring completion of a Master's Degree in Clinical Epidemiology and Health Services Research. The program fosters the development of new investigators who become independent researchers, using methodologically rigorous approaches to address important health issues. Another strength of our program has been our multidisciplinary faculty with expertise in the basic sciences of clinical research, specifically in clinical epidemiology, biostatistics, economics, decision sciences, and behavioral sciences. New York Presbyterian Hospital also participates and collaborates with our program in areas of patient safety and quality improvement.

Overall, our graduates have published over 400 papers, 70% have appointments in academic centers, 20% work in applied settings (industry or public health), and 9% are in private practice. The total funding on grants on which they are either principal investigators or co-principal investigators is $99.2 million. Our graduates have received funding from multiple sources including the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute of Mental Health, the New York State Department of Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the Arthritis Foundation, the Hartford Foundation, the Hyde and Watson Foundation, and the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Institute.
Our program recruits individuals from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups and we have an outstanding record of recruiting and retaining minority candidates with 30% of our 50 past and current fellows being African American or Latino. Of our former fellows, 13 are African American or Latino; specifically, 9 are African American women, 2 are Latino women and 2 are African American men. The fellows participate in the core courses of the Master of Science Program in Clinical Epidemiology and Health Services Research which is based in the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.

**General Advice**

To identify a fellowship program that meets your needs and interests we recommend that you directly contact the programs you are exploring. Try to identify graduates from the program who have already built a career in medicine similar to the one to which you aspire. It should not be a “heavy lift” for a program to assist with arranging a time for you to speak with a graduate. They should provide you with insight about their experience during their fellowship training as well as the career path they followed after completing their fellowship. T32 programs vary widely in emphasis so it is important to research information about the program to ensure that it is in line with your area of interest. Our T32 fellowship training program is research intensive. Programs that are parallel to our program are the GIM fellowship training programs and the RWJ Clinical Scholars Program. You should also consider whether you are going to be able to conduct your own research project during your training or if you are going to be “folded” into ongoing research that is being conducted. Doing your own research project, we believe, is important in laying the ground work for launching a career in research.

**Instructions to Applicants**

The Weill Cornell T32 Fellowship Training Program in Health Services Research does not participate in the National Residency Match Program. To receive an application form, please call (646) 962-5050.

**Application Deadline:** Applications are reviewed and accepted on a rolling basis.

**General Application Timeline for Fellowship Training Beginning July 1, 2017:**

- **Spring 2016:**
  Contact program coordinator to receive the T32 Fellowship Training Program Application: (646) 962-5050.

- **Summer 2016:**
  Begin to assemble application materials:
  1. **Request official transcripts** of all previous college and university work, including summer schools. A final transcript must be supplied after the completion of current degree requirements.
  2. **Request three letters of recommendation** from professors or other professionals with knowledge of your abilities in the areas of academic aptitude and achievement and/or in carrying out professional work and responsibilities.
  3. **Official GRE score reports** (Verbal, Quantitative, Analytical and Advanced - *If the applicant has an MD degree, this requirement is waived.*) **Official MCAT score reports** (Verbal, Quantitative, Analytical and Advanced); **Official TOEFL score report** if English is not native language. These reports must be sent directly to the Graduate School of Medical Sciences by the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, NJ.
4. **Work on a personal statement.** Please provide a concise description of your research experience and research interests. (Your essay should not exceed one typed page, single-spaced, and using a font not smaller than 12 points.)

5. **An updated curriculum vitae**

Submit complete application to Program

- **Fall/Winter 2016-2017:**
  - Program reviews and contacts qualified candidates for interviews.
  - Program schedules a full day of interviews with program faculty, opportunity to meet with current fellows and to participate in weekly Advanced Seminar in Health Services Research.
  - Following interviews, Program notifies each candidate of application status as soon as possible

**Application Requirements:**

- Application form
- Official transcripts of all college and university work
- Three letters of recommendation
- Official GRE, MCAT, and/or TOEFL score reports, if necessary (see Application Timeline, above)
- Personal statement
- Curriculum vitae

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Hematology and Medical Oncology Fellowship Application Guide

Hematology and medical oncology are intimately connected, and most fellowship trainees select programs that combine hematology and medical oncology training for a three-year period. Per ABIM regulations, if an applicant enters a two-year fellowship in hematology or medical oncology alone and afterward wishes to train in the other subspecialty, two additional years of training (four years total) are required. Consequently, most fellowships consist of a three-year combined subspecialty program.

As with many subspecialties, applications are submitted via the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), and most positions are filled via the National Residency Matching Program, Specialties Matching Service (NRMP/SRS). Information regarding registration, policies, and procedures may be found on the ERAS website (www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm). While not a requirement, most fellowship positions start July 1, and the match takes place in June of the preceding year. Consequently, programs generally start interviewing candidates one and a half years prior to the anticipated fellowship start date, and begin reviewing applications shortly after they become available through the ERAS system December 1 (19 months prior to the anticipated fellowship start date of July 1).

Instructions to Applicants

Hematology and Medical Oncology participates in the ERAS-NRMP July Application cycle. Please check each individual program’s website for exact requirements.

Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)
ERAS Program Code: 1553531051

National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)
NRMP Match Number: 1492155F1

For Fellowship Start Date of July 1, 2016
Application Deadline: August 31st, 2016
Interview Dates: September 2016 - November 2016

Fellowship at Weill Cornell/New York-Presbyterian Hospital

The Hematology/Medical Oncology Fellowship Program in the Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College and New York-Presbyterian Hospital is a fully accredited three-year fellowship program leading to board eligibility in hematology and medical oncology. The Division comprises approximately 40 full-time faculty members, all of whom are involved in the training program.

Four to Six fellows are matriculated into the program each year. The fellowship is structured in three one-year blocks. During the first year, fellows rotate among the various inpatient and outpatient hematology-oncology clinical services of the New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, an 850-bed academic hospital on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. The second year of the Hematology/Medical Oncology Training Program consists primarily of supervised laboratory and/or translational clinical research. With the guidance of mentors, fellows gain experience in research design, research methodology and interpretation of data. Interested fellows are encouraged to simultaneously pursue a Master’s in Clinical Investigation at the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.
During the third year of training, fellows are encouraged to continue their research projects as well as consolidate their educational experiences in the diagnosis and management of hematologic and oncologic disorders. Third-year fellows have the opportunity to take clinical electives and to continue their rotations through both the inpatient and outpatient clinical services. Throughout the three years of training, each fellow manages his or her own panel of hematology/oncology patients in the weekly Fellows’ Continuity Clinic, supervised by attending hematologist-oncologists.

**General Advice**

Research — basic, translational, and clinical — is an integral part of the fields of hematology and medical oncology. Even clinicians in private practice typically enter patients in clinical trials and must be familiar with research methodology. Top fellowship programs look very favorably at candidates with demonstrated success and/or interest in research. Make sure any research you have done is included in your application (even if in a different specialty). Letters of recommendation from research mentors are extremely helpful. Be prepared to discuss at interviews any research you have done.

If your primary experience is clinical and you have not yet developed significant research interests (as is often the case), it is crucial to consider what your research interests might be. Are you interested in the underlying cellular mechanisms of carcinogenesis? Which mechanisms? Are you interested in helping develop or test new anticancer drugs? If so, which types? Are you interested in specific diseases? Issues related to palliative care? Include in your application essay what your research interests might be, and be prepared to discuss them (however briefly — you are not expected to be an expert) at your interviews.

Hematology/Medical Oncology is a wide, interesting field, and the faculty at NYPH/WC can help you determine what your research interests might be.

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Infectious Diseases Fellowship Application Guide

The Division of Infectious Diseases' Fellowship Training Program in Infectious Diseases at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College provides individualized training through faculty guidance, clinical rotations, mentored research, and didactic coursework. Our objective is to foster clinical and academic excellence. Graduates of the program are highly qualified for the practice of infectious diseases, bench and clinical research, and for leadership roles in medicine. Our clinical fellows have uniformly received university academic faculty appointments and/or positions in state, federal, or international public health organizations, following certification by the ABIM.

Instructions to Applicants

Infectious Diseases participates in the ERAS-NRMP July Application cycle. Please check each individual program’s website for exact requirements.

Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)
ERAS Program Code: 1463521161

National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)
NRMP Match Number: 1492146F0

For Fellowship Start Date of July 1, 2017
Application Deadline: October 15, 2016
Interview Dates: August 15, 2016 – October 31, 2016

Fellowship at Weill Cornell/New York-Presbyterian Hospital

The Infectious Diseases Fellowship at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical College combines practice with research (laboratory, clinical, or epidemiologically based) and is designed to train physicians primarily for academic positions. Preference is given to candidates seeking at least three years of training. Fellows are eligible to sit on the Boards in the Subspecialty of Infectious Diseases after the second year of training.

The program incorporates traditional clinical activities with a minimum of 12 months on the inpatient consultation service at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell and the Hospital for Special Surgery, and it includes rotations at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. All fellows rotate through the epidemiology department and clinical microbiology laboratory. Training in sexually transmitted diseases is acquired through rotations in clinics of the New York City Department of Health.

Infectious disease fellows have continuity clinics in the Center for Special Studies HIV/AIDS clinics, which provide care to approximately 2,500 HIV-infected persons, as well as a general outpatient infectious disease clinic. In addition, they have sessions in our Travel Clinic, which sees over 3,000 travelers annually and offers a unique opportunity to see a variety of infectious and tropical diseases.

The second and third years of fellowship emphasize basic, translational, clinical, or epidemiologic research at Weill-Cornell, Rockefeller University (including the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center), Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, or other affiliated programs. Fellow research training is supported by an NIH-sponsored T-32 Training Grant. Additional training is available through master's degree programs in clinical investigation or clinical epidemiology/health services research, and other specialized training programs in preventive medicine and public health.
**General Advice**

Think about what kind of Infectious Diseases career you want (clinical or bench research, private practice, etc.) and carefully review the program’s information to be sure it will prepare you for it. Do the Fellows routinely receive research grants (NIH K awards, etc.)? What is the track record of Fellows after they leave the program? How many have faculty or government positions? Does the program have a T32 training grant to support Fellow research? Can you obtain auxiliary training (Master's in Clinical Investigation, etc.)? Do most Fellows do a two- or three-year Infectious Diseases Fellowship? Only two years are required for ABIM certification, but for academic research careers at least three years of Fellowship is the norm. Take time writing your personal statement to be sure it truly reflects why you are interested in Infectious Diseases and what your career goals are. A rehash of your statement from medical school or residency will not suffice. If possible, add something different or personal about yourself and your interests to help you stand out.

Carefully consider whom you ask to write your letters of recommendation. Most letters are “good”; therefore, a letter from a renowned Infectious Diseases expert who says that you are one of the top five people they have ever had in their laboratory will have more meaning than a letter from a new instructor in another subspecialty. However, you do not want a lukewarm letter from anyone. For academic/research programs it is useful to have publications, case reports and/or current involvement with a study. Be sure to do your homework before going to an interview. Write to politely ask if you might meet with people you’ve identified at the program who share your interests. During your interview, ask questions that are program specific. You don’t want to come off as if this is just another stop on your tour. Follow up with an email of thanks, but be genuine. And if you are really interested, send a second email before the match lists are due outlining what you really like about the program and how it could help you meet your goals/career interests. If you don't get an interview somewhere, contact the Department of Medicine; someone can make a call for you.

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Nephrology Fellowship Application Guide

Nephrology is a tremendously exciting subspecialty with a multitude of job opportunities. Care of patients with kidney disease encompasses all of internal medicine, including cardiovascular medicine, endocrinology, hypertension, immunology and metabolism. The career opportunities are broad – with academics, clinical care, clinical education, pure research and industry are all possibilities. The field also encompasses a broad spectrum of illnesses – from the stable patient with mild CKD, to the critically ill person in the ICU with multi-organ failure. Renal transplantation is an important aspect of nephrology. The excitement of a successful renal transplant that restores health to an individual with life-threatening chronic disease is one of the great triumphs of modern medicine. Medical residents do not have exposure to this process during residency, and thus may not have an idea of how exciting the field of nephrology has become. Most analyses project significant shortages in the Nephrology workforce in the next few years.

The New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Nephrology Fellowship is a two-year program with eight fellows. Four are recruited each year. There are opportunities for fellows interested in research to complete an additional third year of fellowship in transplantation or hypertension. The general application process for Nephrology Fellowships involves completing an online application in the ERAS system. Information regarding registration, policies, and procedures may be found on the ERAS website (www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm).

Instructions to Applicants

Nephrology participates in the ERAS-NRMP July Application cycle. Please check each individual program’s website for exact requirements.

Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)

ERAS Program Code: 1483521144

National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)

NRMP Match Number: 1492148F0

For Fellowship Start Date of July 1, 2017

Interview Dates: August 15 2016-November 3, 2016

Fellowship at Weill Cornell/New York-Presbyterian Hospital

The New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell program is world renowned in the areas of transplantation, dialysis, and hypertension. Nephrology fellows rotate at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and obtain invaluable exposure to renal complications associated with cancer. The Transplantation Immunobiology Laboratory at Weill Cornell has a robust, NIH-funded research portfolio and has made seminal contributions to the field of transplantation, cancer research, and diabetes. Our fellowship provides trainees with an unparalleled clinical and academic experience. Our patient population is broad based and diverse. Our teaching program is comprehensive and includes regular didactic lectures, clinical case conferences, renal pathology training, journal club and training in basic epidemiology and biostatistics. Residents who are interested are encouraged to meet with the Program Director, Dr. Phyllis August; the Division Chief, Dr. Manikkam Suthanthiran, and any of the key clinical faculty including Dr. Jeffrey I. Silberzweig (Rogosin Institute), and Dr. Ilya G. Glezerman (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center).
**General Advice**

NYPH residents who are interested in nephrology should take advantage of the wonderful opportunity to attend the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) Annual Meeting, which usually takes place the last week of October. The ASN has a sponsored residents’ program and will reimburse the costs of residents attending the meeting. Please contact Silvia Santacruz in the Division of Nephrology (212-746-4430) as early in the year as possible if you are interested in attending.

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Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine Application Guide

Introduction:
The field of Pulmonary and Critical Care is an exciting mix of inpatient and outpatient medicine, and of acute and chronic disease. This training path allows for varied careers in basic science research, intensive care medicine, sleep medicine, interventional and office based pulmonary medicine. The majority of training opportunities are three-year combined programs leading to board eligibility in both pulmonary medicine and in critical care medicine and there exist extended fellowships for sleep medicine, interventional pulmonology and lung transplantation. Our aging population and the increasing disease burden of conditions such as lung cancer, asthma, COPD and sepsis have increased the need for research-minded, academic pulmonary and critical care physicians. Our program offers state-of-the-art clinical training and the opportunity to advance research with local and nationally recognized experts in the field of pulmonary and critical care medicine.

Instructions to Applicants

Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine participates in the ERAS-NRMP July Application cycle. Please check each individual program's website for exact requirements.

Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)
ERAS Program Code: 1492156F0

National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)
NRMP Match Number: 1563521083

For Fellowship Start Date of July 1, 2017
Application Deadline: The Program Selection Committee will review applications from July 1, 2016 to August 15, 2016
Interview Dates: September 2016 – October 2016

Fellowship at Weill Cornell/New York-Presbyterian Hospital

The Pulmonary Disease/Critical Care Fellowship Program offers fellows an exceptional opportunity to train in an urban environment where the spectrum of illnesses is vast and the acuity is intense.

The three-year fellowship program is designed to lead to certification in both pulmonary and critical care medicine. We have accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and 4 positions are available each year through the Medical Specialty Matching Program. We offer a structured curriculum encompassing rotations on our inpatient pulmonary consultation service, bronchoscopy/procedure service, pulmonary outpatient practice, and in the medical and surgical intensive care units of the medical center. There is teaching time dedicated to endotracheal intubation, endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) and the use of ultrasound for invasive procedures.

Under the supervision of the division’s clinical faculty, fellows receive training at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. All of our PCCM fellows complete 18 months of research time and are engaged in basic laboratory, translational or clinical research involving human subjects. We have a robust mentorship program throughout the first clinical year to ensure that fellows are able to identify areas of interest and find appropriate research mentors. All fellows participate in local and national conferences where they are able to present their work.

Ongoing educational activities include weekly case conferences, clinical research conferences, curriculum lectures in pulmonary and critical care, as well as monthly joint case conferences for pulmonary/critical
care attending physicians in the NewYork-Presbyterian Health Network, and the quarterly William A. Briscoe New York Lung Club, where pulmonary/critical care researchers from academic institutions and teaching hospitals in the New York metropolitan area meet to present and discuss new projects and data. Fellows also participate in a monthly journal club, sleep medicine grand rounds and a renowned interstitial lung disease conference.

**General Advice**

Our program is interested in matching responsible clinicians who have demonstrated maturity, compassion, scholarship and integrity in their care of patients. Applicants should have some experience with clinical or bench research and should be **interested in a career as an academic physician.**

We require 3 *professional letters of recommendation*. Please carefully consider whom you ask to write your letters of recommendation and discuss this with your program director or advisor. Sincere letters written by physicians who know you well are the most powerful endorsement for your application. Your personal statement should be honest and well written with correct grammar and no spelling mistakes. A mentor within the subspecialty is important in guiding your research opportunities as well as navigating the various career choices and modes of clinical practice that exist within the subspecialty. Any faculty member in our division is available to help you through the application process.

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Rheumatology Fellowship Application Guide
New York Presbyterian Hospital (Cornell campus)
Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS)

There are approximately 110 training programs in rheumatology accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Virtually all of them, including the NYPH/HSS Rheumatology Fellowship Program, fill their fellowship positions via a Match conducted by the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP). The Internal Medicine Subspecialty Match is held in December of the year prior to the intended start of fellowship. The length of NYPH/HSS rheumatology fellowship training is three years, the first two of which are ACGME accredited. Fellows are eligible for subspecialty board certification in rheumatology after their second year of fellowship.

Instructions to Applicants

Physicians who will have completed an ACGME-accredited internal medicine residency may apply to the HSS Rheumatology Fellowship Program. Applications should be submitted to the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). Information regarding ERAS, registration, policies, and procedures can be found on the ERAS website: www.aamc.org/services/eras/. Once all applications have been received and reviewed, applicants will be notified if a personal interview will be scheduled. HSS is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate with regard to sex, color, creed, religion, sexual preference, or disability.

In addition to submitting documents through ERAS, applicants must also register with the NRMP for the Match http://www.nrmp.org/.

All fellows are required to have a current New York State License and Registration at all times. Information and application for New York State License can be found at the New York State Education Department website: www.nysed.gov. Non-U.S. citizens/non-permanent residents ONLY may work with a Limited Permit to practice medicine in New York State. All fellows are required to maintain appropriate immigration status at all times. HSS sponsors a variety of visas for Foreign Nationals depending on the position, salary, and length of commitment. Once an applicant has made a firm commitment to Hospital for Special Surgery in regard to a fellowship, Human Resources will provide the forms that are needed to obtain the required information to access your potential for varying visas.

ERAS Program Code: 1503521122
NRMP Match Number: 10529663F0

For Fellowship Start Date of July 1, 2017
Application Deadline: The Program Selection Committee will review applications from:
Interview Dates: September 2016 - October 2016

Application Requirements

Please submit the following documents via ERAS:

- Application
- CV
- Personal statement
- Medical school transcript
- Medical school Dean’s letter and/or medical school performance evaluation
- Three current letters of recommendation
USMLE or COMPLEX score report

**Fellowship at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Hospital for Special Surgery**

The Rheumatology Fellowship Program at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York-Presbyterian Hospital is based at the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) and includes clinical and research resources at our neighboring sister institutions, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and The Rockefeller University. Active links with a variety of disciplines in the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences (WCGSMS) are an integral part of the program, which is designed to train physicians interested in developing academic and clinical careers in rheumatology. The 4.5 acres surrounding HSS contain one of the largest concentrations of biomedical research and care anywhere in the world. A four-institution immunology program focuses internationally recognized scientists on solving the immunological puzzles that lead to autoimmune and musculoskeletal disorders.

The fellowship program combines broad-based, in-depth clinical and research experiences in order to deliver the highest quality academic training to rheumatology professionals. Designed for three fellows each year, the program is flexible enough to allow for individual fellows’ interests and needs. The first-year program is predominantly clinical but all fellows participate in research during their second and third years of training.

HSS is one of the largest musculoskeletal disease hospitals in the world. There are approximately 12,000 orthopedic and rheumatology admissions per year. Over 10,000 new rheumatology outpatients are seen in the ambulatory setting and there are 35,000 revisits each year. The Division of Rheumatology has its own ambulatory Infusion Care Unit where over 3,700 patients are treated with a variety of biologic agents and anti-inflammatory treatments yearly. HSS follows over 4,600 patients with rheumatoid arthritis and 1,500 patients with systemic lupus erythematosus. HSS is also notable for the size and expertise of its faculty and their commitment to teaching. There are 32 full-time rheumatologists with clinical and research interests encompassing lupus, scleroderma, myositis, vasculitis, inflammatory arthritis, outcomes research and musculoskeletal ultrasound.

The NYPH/HSS rheumatology fellowship clinical experience is focused on outpatient rheumatology clinics at HSS and inpatient consultation services at New York-Presbyterian Hospital and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Didactic sessions include introductory rheumatology, immunology, clinical epidemiology and health services research lecture series, as well as a weekly journal club, consult rounds, bedside teaching rounds, radiology rounds, rheumatology grand rounds, and clinical pathology-radiology conferences.

Fellowship research projects generally tie in with ongoing research activities within the program. Suitable projects include investigations into the biological mechanisms of autoimmune, inflammatory, and musculoskeletal disease, and issues pertinent to clinical epidemiology and health services delivery in the rheumatic diseases. Each fellow’s research experience is coordinated by a faculty mentor, as well as a mentorship committee. For fellows pursuing research on the immunological mechanisms of disease, the Graduate Program in Immunology sponsors weekly research seminars, weekly guest seminars, and a formal course in immunology. Fellows pursuing a project in clinical research are encouraged to pursue a certificate in clinical investigation or a master’s degree in clinical investigation or public health. All fellows are expected to present the results of their research at regional and national meetings.

The Research Division at HSS, coordinates a broad program of research in musculoskeletal diseases, and also includes faculty from the basic sciences, orthopedics, biomechanics and biomaterials, tissue engineering, gene therapy, pathology, and anesthesiology. The Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences WCGSMS program in immunology has 19 faculty members, including 7 based at HSS in rheumatology and 12 based at the WCGSMS program in clinical epidemiology and health services. The
research program at HSS is strongly supported by multiple federal and non-federal grants. The program also provides on-site research core facilities and specialists, including flow cytometry/cell sorting, molecular biologists, analytic microscopy, specialists in research methodology and statistics, an outcomes research unit, and confocal microscopy. The research cores of our sister institutions support transgenic animal models, protein sequencing, and gene therapy.

**General Advice**

Selection of fellows from among eligible applicants will be made on the basis of their preparedness, ability, aptitude, academic credentials, communication skills, and personal qualities such as motivation and integrity.

If you are interested in an academic career, it is important to demonstrate some research experience in your application. Letters of recommendation are also very important. A letter from a renowned rheumatologist who says that you are one of the top five people they have ever worked with will carry more weight than a similar letter from an instructor. At the same time, however, you should request letters from people who know you well and can attest to your strengths. Brief letters from famous people who spent very little time with you won’t carry much weight.

**Contacts**

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APPENDIX
A Practical Guide to the Fellowship Application Process

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Credit: Housestaff Committee, July 2011
1. Statement of Purpose

This guide is intended to be used as an aid during the fellowship application process for internal medicine residents at Weill Cornell/New York Presbyterian Hospital. We have made an effort to include information that is generalizable to any fellowship available through the NRMP Internal Medicine Subspecialties’ Match. Nearly all of the information contained herein is based on the collective experience of residents who have been through this process before. Thus, you should feel free to tailor any suggestions made to your specific situation.

2. Planning Your Application

April
Aim to have all recommendation letters requested.
Work on your personal statement.
Inform the residency program that you intend to apply for fellowship.

May
Meet with your program advisor to request a program letter (see “Obtaining a Program Letter”). Submit your personal statement to program director by mid-May.
Finalize your list of programs.
Give an ERAS Waiver/Cover Sheet to all those writing letters on your behalf. Please ask them to send their signed letters to Takiyah Broomes.

June
MyERAS website opens to begin working on applications.
Finish entering all information into ERAS. Submit your application. Have all documents submitted to EFDO at this time. Note that electing to send your medical school transcript and dean’s letter to a program is a separate process than uploading those documents to EFDO.

July
Applicants may apply to July cycle programs
Programs begin downloading applications, sending out interview requests.

August-October
Register for NRMP match.
Schedule and attend interviews (some programs will not send out applications until later in this period).
Stay in touch with advisors regarding programs you visit.
Inform the Chief’s Office of interviews you receive in real time.

November
Discuss your preferences with your advisors, come up with a plan on who will call for you if necessary.
Enter your rank list into NRMP. **Mid November: Rank lists for programs and applicants are due**

December 7th, 2016: Match Day!
3. The ERAS Fellowship Deans Office (EFDO)

This office takes the place of the medical deans office that you used during the residency application process. If you graduated from a foreign medical school, you are already familiar with the EFDO as they also process materials for all applicants from all non-U.S. medical schools.

Services Include:

**Distribution of ERAS Tokens:**
In order to access the ERAS application, you must purchase a token through the EFDO. These become available in early July, and cost approximately $90. You may purchase them at [www.aamc.org/eras](http://www.aamc.org/eras).

**Processing of Letters of Recommendation:**
The EFDO website, which must be accessed through the MyERAS application while logged in is where you will print out cover sheets for your letter writers, the “ERAS Fellowships – Request for Letter of Recommendation Cover Sheet”. A second coversheet can also be printed out from MyERAS. It is the Document Submission Form (DSF) and it must be completed on-line. Check either “I waive” or “I do not waive” my right to see this letter, sign the coversheet, and provide it to your letter writers. It is preferred that you waive your right to see the letter. We recommend attaching both the waiver/cover sheet and the DSF. They will mail the packet directly to EFDO.

**Processing of Medical School Documents:**
Your medical school transcript and MSPE (Dean’s Letter) must be sent to ERAS directly from your medical school. A coversheet that is generated from EFDO must accompany your request. We recommend you initiate this process early, as getting documents from a medical school has proven to be a rate limiting step for people in the past. We recommend you request both documents even if your fellowships only want one or the other, you never know if you might need them.

**A Few Suggestions:**

**Give Yourself Extra Time:**
The EFDO can take up to two weeks to scan a document after they receive it, and it can take another 24 hours for it then to be uploaded to the ERAS post office. Plenty of people miss this deadline and still have everything in on time, but it is a good goal to provide you letter writers with.

**If Documents Go Missing, Follow up:**
If you have letter writers or a medical school that confirm something was sent but it doesn't show as received on the EFDO website or scanned into the ERAS post office, call EFDO (numbers are listed on the website). They actually have a fairly helpful customer service staff.
4. Advising

The advising process for fellowship is necessarily more free form than residency. It is important to develop a network of people who will be able to guide you.

Your Program Advisor:
The same advisor you meet with for your bi-annual reviews will function as your main interface with the program leadership during the fellowship application process. It is this person who will draft your Program Letter (more on this later), and be responsible for knowing where you are in the process. In order for them to be most helpful to you, plan on meeting with them about applications at the end of August or early September. At that time, attempt to have prepared your CV, a personal statement draft, and a preliminary list of places you may be interested in applying. Stay in touch regarding progress on getting interviews, and program impressions as you progress through the process.

Subspecialty Advisors:
These are important to identify early on. Once you have made a decision on a subspecialty, try and find people who can help guide you in achieving your professional goals. Most often, this is done informally based on interactions you have with specialists, however, your program advisor, Dr. Logio, Dr. Choi, The Chiefs’ office, and other residents can also help you get in touch with appropriate faculty.

Program Director:
Every fellowship applicant should meet with the program director early in the process. Have your CV and Personal Statement completed at this time, as you will be getting feedback on both. It is also helpful to have a preliminary list of places you may be interested in going.

Chairman:
The Chairman is available to you for career advice early in the process of deciding on a specialty and which programs may be best suited for your particular area and interests. It is not necessary to meet with him once you’ve made your final rank order list.
5. Preparing a CV

A curriculum vitae, commonly referred to as a CV, is a longer, more detailed summary than a resume. It includes a summary of your educational and academic background, teaching and research experience, publications, presentations, awards, honors, affiliations, etc. Your CV is essentially your biographical write-up of your personal academic career. It is a statement of your academic accomplishments in an easy-to-read format. Your CV should be clear, concise, complete and up to date. The exact length and format of an academic CV is not set in stone. Tailor your resume to focus on the “right audience.” Ask friends and your advisors to review, proofread and edit your CV for clarity and polish.

General Outline
- Identifying Information (name, address, email address, phone number)
- Education
- Postgraduate Training
- Honors/Awards
- Work Experience
- Research Experience
- Activities
- Publications
- Presentations and Scientific Meetings
- Affiliations
- License and Certification
- Activities and Interests

Tips:
- Be sparing in your use of fonts
- A nice simple template is best
- Use action verbs
- Check the names and dates listed in your CV
- Keep your CV up-to-date and honest
6. Personal Statement

Every fellowship application requires a statement that asks, in one way or another, for the candidate to describe their academic or other interests. This personal statement is your introduction to the selection committee. It is an essay which is designed to give the selection committee a sense of who you are and how closely your goals and strengths match the ideals of a specific fellowship. It provides an opportunity for you to distinguish yourself from other applicants. Because this statement is personal, there is not one format or approach that will work well for everyone. You have a great deal of flexibility on how to present your thoughts, but you should be sure to cover the following basic points:

- Your qualifications for a given fellowship
- How the fellowship fits in with your personal and professional goals

Use your personal statement to say what is most important to you. The essay is an exercise of self-reflection. A personal statement is generally most effective when it concentrates on:

- An issue or experience that you feel strongly about, or one that has helped to shape who you are
- A significant accomplishment or contribution you have made to your field of interest

A selection committee may read hundreds of essays back-to-back in a short period of time. Readers look for essays that:

- Make sense – logically, grammatically, thematically
- Are a pleasure to read
- Engage their attention
- Provide substance and relevant information
- Stands out from the crowd

General tips:

- Keep it simple, keep it short – 1 page maximum
- Be honest with yourself
- Take lots of time to think about who you are, your values, your priorities, your goals
- Think about the individuals, experiences and challenges that have influenced your career goals
- Do not try to guess what the committee wants to read
- Maintain focus with a consistent story line
- Open the essay with a strong paragraph that provides a framework and introduces critical elements that you intend to explore in the main body of the essay
- A unifying theme will help you organize your ideas, select supporting evidence of your achievements and provide a roadmap for your readers. Your personal statement should flow naturally.
- Provide a compelling snapshot of who you are and what contributions you have made
- Indicate what your priorities are and the kind of passion you bring to your work
- Focus on a few, well-chosen examples. Depth is better than breadth. Select experiences that have been most important to you.

Avoid:

- Melodramatic or self-congratulatory statements
- Vague, abstract ideals
- Laundry list of achievements
- Convoluted syntax
- Religion and politics

Revise, revise, revise! You may go through many drafts of your personal statement. Ask your friends, fellows you know and your advisors to review your personal statement and offer suggestions. Your personal
statement should accurately express who you are. And remember, the program director and your advisor are both available to help you revise these important documents!