



# Advanced Fellowships in Cardiology

The Heart Institute at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center



The Heart Institute at Cincinnati Children's is pleased to announce advanced cardiology fellow training opportunities in the following subspecialties:

**ACGME Accredited Program**

Adult Congenital Heart Disease

**GME Accredited Programs**

- Preventive Cardiology
- Cardiac Intensive Care
- Non-Invasive Imaging
- Acute Care Cardiology
- Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplantation
- Pulmonary Hypertension
- Interventional Cardiology
- Electrophysiology

*Our fourth year fellowship training tracks provide intensive experience in the advanced fellow's chosen sub-specialty. It is intended for the most promising cardiology trainees interested in a career in academic pediatric cardiology.*

**Adult Congenital Heart Disease**

Fellowship Director: Clayton "Tony" Smith, MD

**Application Deadline: Please follow ERAS/NRMP Guidelines**

Accredited by the ACGME, the 2-year advanced ACHD fellowship at Cincinnati Children's and University of Cincinnati Medical Center is structured to meet the requirements necessary for ABIM board eligibility with the ultimate goal of ACHD certification. This fellowship will add to the knowledge base and experience of an already well-trained pediatric or adult cardiology fellow via individualized pathways and curriculum. Our overall program has been designated as an ACHD Accredited Comprehensive Care Center by the Adult Congenital Heart Association. The ACHD fellow is part of a dedicated team including cardiologists, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, pharmacists and social workers. We work closely with talented colleagues in pediatric and adult general cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery, interventional cardiology, heart failure/transplant, electrophysiology, pulmonary hypertension, cardiac imaging, maternal fetal medicine, and transition medicine to provide the highest quality care to our patients. We hold ACHD clinic nearly every day between our main campus and satellite locations. In addition to our general ACHD clinics and inpatient care, we participate in several multidisciplinary clinics, including pregnancy clinics for high-risk cardiac patients, Cardiovascular Genetics Clinic, and Fontan Management Clinic. Our team and our fellows also participate in many educational activities for trainees, staff, community providers, patients, and families. ACHD fellows will be expected to perform research with the goal of submission and acceptance of at least one first author original publication aimed to advance the ACHD field. Our goal is to train the next generation of highly skilled ACHD physicians who are capable of managing the full spectrum of pathophysiology within this growing field. Applicants are invited to apply through the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) system. Only applications submitted through ERAS will be reviewed.

**Preventive Cardiology**

Director: Sarah Henson, MD | **Application Deadline: October 25**

Cincinnati Children's offers one of the nation's longest-running advanced fellowships in pediatric preventive cardiology, established in 2006. The program combines structured didactic experiences with extensive hands-on clinical training in the diagnosis and management of cardiovascular risk factors, including obesity, dyslipidemia, hypertension, and insulin resistance. Fellows may pursue additional training in epidemiology, study design, and biostatistics and are expected to complete scholarly work leading to at least one abstract and one manuscript during their fellowship year. Research opportunities include lifestyle and pharmacologic interventions in obesity, hypertension, and lipid disorders; advanced cardiac imaging (echocardiography and MRI) to assess cardiometabolic consequences; and noninvasive vascular phenotyping to evaluate early atherosclerosis. Additional opportunities are available through collaboration with large, longitudinal cohort studies that link early cardiovascular risk factors to adult outcomes. The fellowship is highly customizable, allowing each trainee to tailor their experience based on individual interests and career goals.

**Cardiac Intensive Care**

Fellowship Director: Meghan Chlebowski, MD, MHPE

**Application Deadline: Please follow SF Match Guidelines**

Advanced fellowship training in Cardiac Critical Care is designed for the individual who plans to focus on the management of critically ill children with acquired or congenital heart disease. The successful candidate will have completed an ACGME, ACGMEi, or RCPSC accredited training program in pediatric cardiology or pediatric critical care and should demonstrate commitment and ability for a career in academic cardiac intensive care. The goal of the advanced fellowship is to provide the trainee with the cardiology and critical care skills necessary to evaluate and manage critically ill cardiac patients as the primary physician. The understanding of complex cardiovascular and respiratory physiology is fundamental to the achievement of this goal. The trainee will also receive training in the basic principles of critical care including airway management, mechanical ventilation, hemodynamic support (both pharmacologic and mechanical), surgical issues, anesthesia and analgesia, sedation, fluid management, resuscitation and nutrition as applied specifically to the care of patients with critical cardiac illness. The trainee will gain experience in the evaluation and management of routine arrhythmias encountered in the pediatric cardiac intensive care unit and will develop advanced skills managing patients on ECMO and ventricular assist devices. Although the advanced Cardiac Critical Care fellowship is focused primarily on the development of clinical skills and leadership within the CICU, advanced fellows will have the opportunity to perform clinical research that suits their interests and is supported by the Heart Institute Research Core (HIRC). In addition, the trainee will have exposure to international quality improvement collaborative networks such as the Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care Consortium (PC<sup>4</sup>) and Cardiac Networks United (including PAC3 and CNOC). Interested candidates should fill out the Common Application Form available at <https://pcics.org/programs/>. Both internal and external applicants will also need to register for the yearly Match via SF Match at <https://www.sfmach.org/>.

*Family is at the heart of everything we do. Our community outreach brings children and families together through meaningful, joy-filled experiences like the Heart Association Walk, Camp Joyful Hearts, Family Education Day, and Family Camp—creating lasting connections, lifelong memories, and a stronger, healthier community for all.*

*"I was thrilled to join the adult congenital heart disease (ACHD) program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) for my advanced fellowship. The program, housed in the pediatric hospital, sees adults both in-house and "across the street" at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. The variety of pathology and complexity from our patients provides countless learning opportunities, and our group's active and healthy collaboration with other cardiac subspecialties and cardiac surgery in the city ensures that our patients can get the care that they need locally. As a trainee, there is an institutional academic backbone that prioritizes an active learning environment and highlights the advanced fellow's role as not only a learner, but also an educator of categorical fellows and residents. ACHD fellowship is the end of a long training pathway, and I feel that my time at CCHMC has thus far prepared me well to finally become an attending with the knowledge and ability to care for our complex patient community."*

— Dr. John Shabosky

*Advanced Fellow in Adult Congenital Heart Disease*



*“The cardiac imaging fellowship at Cincinnati Children’s offers unmatched hands-on training in every aspect of cardiovascular imaging. From fetal cardiology to transthoracic, transesophageal, and 3D echo to cardiac CT and MRI, the depth of experience and mentorship here are exceptional. The supportive environment, unparalleled research opportunities, large patient volume, and incredible faculty have helped me grow both technically and clinically, preparing me for my future in advanced cardiac imaging. As a previous resident, subspecialty fellow, and now advanced fellow within the Heart Institute, I can say that I would choose this program again without hesitation.”*

— Dr. Taylor Trussell

*Advanced Fellow in Non-Invasive Imaging*

## Non-Invasive Imaging

Co-Directors, Non-Invasive Imaging Program: Garick Hill, MD, Allison Divanovic, MD & Sean Lang, MD | **Application Deadline: Please follow SF Match Guidelines**

The fourth year fellowship in Non-invasive Imaging seeks to train future leaders in the field. The fellowship provides advanced training in all facets of cardiovascular imaging including transthoracic, transesophageal and 3D echocardiography, fetal echocardiography, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. During the course of the program, the trainee will also participate in fetal counseling and management planning in a wide variety of clinical situations, including fetal therapeutic procedures. The imaging curriculum can be tailored to an applicant’s needs and include more or less emphasis on any of these modalities. The fellow’s role will progress over the year with an initial focus on mastering echocardiography skills and acquiring fetal and cross sectional imaging skills. The fellow will become a teacher to the categorical fellows and will ultimately assume a pre-attending role. Academic skills will also be heavily emphasized, with established tracks in research, quality improvement and medical education and the expectation of at least one academic product generated during the year. To facilitate this goal, the fellow will have access to the resources of the Heart Institute Research Core, the Cardiovascular Imaging Research Laboratory, and the James M. Anderson Center for Health Systems Excellence.

## Acute Care Cardiology

Director: Colleen Pater, MD | **Application Deadline: October 25**

Advanced training in Acute Care Cardiology (also known as inpatient or step-down care) is designed for the individual who plans to become a leader in the field of acute care cardiology. Clinical care includes all hospitalized, non-ICU, children with acquired or congenital heart disease. The successful candidate will have completed an accredited three-year training program in pediatric cardiology and should demonstrate an interest for a career in academic medicine. The clinical goal of the advanced fellowship is to provide the trainee with the cardiology training to evaluate and manage acutely ill cardiac patients, as well as to develop the leadership skills necessary to direct a multidisciplinary team. The understanding and integration of complex cardiovascular and respiratory physiology is fundamental to the achievement of this goal. The basic principles of acute care education include respiratory management, chronic hemodynamic support (both pharmacologic and mechanical), surgical issues, analgesia, fluid management, escalation of care, and nutrition. The trainee will gain experience in the evaluation and management of routine arrhythmias, cardiac catheterization data, and inpatient care of ventricular assist devices. The trainee will also have the opportunity to receive formal training in Quality Improvement methodologies, expanded opportunities in Medical Education, experiential learning in other acute care cardiology units, and exposure to operational leadership of a hospital unit including partnership with Patient Services leadership. Furthermore, the trainee will have exposure to international collaborative networks such as the Pediatric Acute Care Cardiology Collaborative (PAC3) and Cardiac Networks United. While the focus of the advanced Acute Care Cardiology fellowship is predominantly clinical, fourth year fellows will be expected to perform scholarly work with the goal of submission and acceptance of at least one first author original publication, as well as participation in international conferences.

Established in 1883, we comprise the Department of Pediatrics of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. We have over 900 registered beds and just recently became the second largest pediatric hospital in the nation with our expansion into the new Critical Care Building established in 2021. In addition, we provide more than 1.4 million square feet of research laboratory space to investigators working to improve child health.

## Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplantation

Fellowship Director: Benjamin Mantell, MD, PhD | **Application Deadline: August 14**

The fourth year fellowship provides an advanced experience for the trainee in all aspects of pediatric heart failure, cardiomyopathy, and pediatric cardiac transplantation. Applicants will receive extensive training in both inpatient and outpatient care while receiving valuable mentoring from staff recognized as world-leaders in these areas. Upon completion, graduates will be familiar with all aspects of advanced heart failure therapy including ventricular assist devices and transplantation. Training in the evaluation of patients with a family history of cardiomyopathy will occur in the outpatient setting and includes education on the use of genetic testing to determine at-risk family members. Extensive clinical and translational research opportunities are available and will be tailored to the trainee’s area of interest. The advanced fellow will be expected to develop a research project under the direction of the Cardiomyopathy & Advanced Heart Failure Service with the plan to present at least one abstract during the year of training and to develop a manuscript for peer-review submission by the completion of their fellowship.

## Pulmonary Hypertension

Director: Paul Critser, MD, PhD | **Application Deadline: August 30**

The one year advanced fellowship in Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) will expose the trainee to all aspects of Pediatric Pulmonary Hypertension. Accredited by the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA) as a Pulmonary Hypertension Comprehensive Care Center (PHCC), the advanced PH training program will include exposure to both in and out-patients with PH. The training is centered within a collaborative team supported by Nurse Practitioners and a Nurse Coordinator, with further contribution from a dedicated pharmacist and social worker. The advanced fellow will be expected to attend the PH clinic, round daily on PH in house patients, complete consultations and attend PH related cardiac catheterizations. In addition to the basic training within the Heart Institute, the advanced fellow will participate in structured rotations on the Pediatric Pulmonary Service for exposure to chronic lung disease, the Transitional Care Center and the Sleep and Pulmonary Function Laboratories. Additional rotations are also provided off-site at the University of Cincinnati adult PH service and at other partner pediatric institutions. The advanced fellow will be expected to participate in research activities and present findings at national meetings. Prospective trainees will ideally provide outlines of research protocols prior to commencing their training to facilitate timely completion during the year.

## Interventional Cardiology

Director: Shabana Shahanavaz, MBBS | **Application Deadline: August 30**

During the course of the one year fellowship program, the trainee will learn to perform catheterization in a wide variety of clinical situations involving patients with both congenital and acquired heart disease. This will include diagnostic, interventional and hybrid catheterization procedures. In addition to the technical skill component, the trainee will also learn hemodynamic data interpretation and analysis of angiography relevant to the cardiovascular system. The trainee will be responsible for presentation of clinical catheterization data during regular Heart Institute clinical conferences. The trainee is expected to participate in and be productive from a clinical research perspective. Prospective trainees will be requested to provide outlines of potential research projects prior to entering the program to expedite completion of the research during the course of the year. It is expected that the trainee will present findings of research in abstract form at a national meeting and will submit a manuscript for publication in a peer reviewed journal.

*“As a former pediatric cardiology subspecialty fellow from another program, I was thrilled to be given the opportunity to extend my training here at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital as a Research Fellow. The planning of my academic year was tailored to the future needs of my practice, allowing a significant time dedicated to research, working with the best mentors in the country. It also allowed me to choose from the many clinical rotations available in this Institution, even outside the Heart Institute – a testimony of my Program Director’s dedication towards our success, both professionally and personally.”*

— Alex Lepage-Farrell, MD

*Advanced Fellow in Research*





## Experience the Culture of Cincinnati

*"I may be a bit biased as a Cincinnati native, but I truly cannot imagine a better place to live, especially as a medical trainee. Cincy has a unique charm that blends big-city perks with a small-town feel. The food scene is a standout, from iconic local staples like Cincinnati-style chili and the BEST ice cream in the world (just ask Oprah), to a growing number of up-scale restaurants and eclectic breweries that showcase the city's creative side. Sports fans have plenty to cheer about, with a passionate following for the Bengals, Reds, and FC Cincinnati—game days bring the city together in a really fun way. One of the best parts about living here though, is the affordable housing and everyday costs are much lower compared to other major cities. Plus, getting around is easy; traffic is rarely an issue, which makes commuting or heading out for a spontaneous night downtown totally stress-free. And the people? Friendly, supportive, and down-to-earth. There's a genuine sense of community and collaboration here that makes Cincinnati feel welcoming whether you're new to town or a lifelong resident."*

— Ellie Greiner, MD, MS  
Advanced Fellow in Heart Failure Transplant

## Electrophysiology

Fellowship Director: David Spar, MD | **Application Deadline: June 30**

The fourth year fellowship training in pediatric electrophysiology provides an advanced experience in diagnostic electrophysiology, invasive electrophysiologic testing including transvenous and esophageal studies, advanced non-invasive electrophysiologic studies, ablation procedures, transvenous and epicardial pacemaker insertion and management and evaluation of familial arrhythmias. The trainee will participate in outpatient electrophysiology clinics and inpatient consultations. The advanced fellow will also participate in research with the goal of at least one first author publication in a peer reviewed journal. The ultimate purpose of the advanced fellow experience is to provide the skills and knowledge necessary for a successful clinical, academic and research career in pediatric cardiac electrophysiology.

## Additional resources and opportunities:

### Heart Institute Research Core

Research performed by advanced fellows will be supported by the Heart Institute Research Core (HIRC), a research unit that supports innovative clinical and translational science by facilitating the design and implementation of research studies, the dissemination and application of findings, and the development of research professionals. Project managers, in collaboration with principal investigators, lead customized project teams selected from a cadre of more than 40 research professionals, including project managers, clinical research coordinators, research nurses, biostatisticians, business and administrative personnel, and experts in biomedical informatics and data management, to accomplish the specific goals of each research project.

### M.S. in Clinical and Translational Research

The Master of Science degree program in Clinical and Translational Research is designed to provide clinical professionals with the necessary preparation for successful career development and independent investigator awards. The program emphasizes specific training in clinical epidemiology/clinical effectiveness, molecular epidemiology, clinical trials, and translational research that will enable clinicians to translate scientific advances into applications for improved clinical practice and human health. The M.S. in Clinical and Translational Research is a 48 credit hour program to be completed in two years on a part-time basis to allow trainees to meet clinical duties and other responsibilities while enrolled in classes. In addition to the successful completion of 45 credit hours of course work at the University of Cincinnati, a thesis and three credits of thesis research are required. It is anticipated that most graduates of the program will ultimately hold positions as clinician-investigators in academic settings and will develop into independently-funded clinical researchers. Since this is a two-year program, the advanced fellow who wishes to pursue this degree needs to plan on an additional year of training and enrollment arrangements/prerequisites must be discussed prior to beginning the fourth year.

## About The Heart Institute

The Cincinnati Children's Heart Institute is one of the largest pediatric and congenital cardiology programs in the nation with more than 135 world-renowned physicians, researchers and fellows. Formed in 2008, the mission of the Heart Institute is to be the change agent for academic pediatric cardiovascular medicine through the delivery of the safest outstanding family-centered care, the integration of innovative research and improvement strategies, and training the next generation of professionals.

In FY24, the Heart Institute performed over 636 cardiothoracic surgeries. In addition, the Heart Institute saw over 25,823 outpatient visits across 26 sites including 19 outreach locations and 7 neighborhoods, in FY24.

## About Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

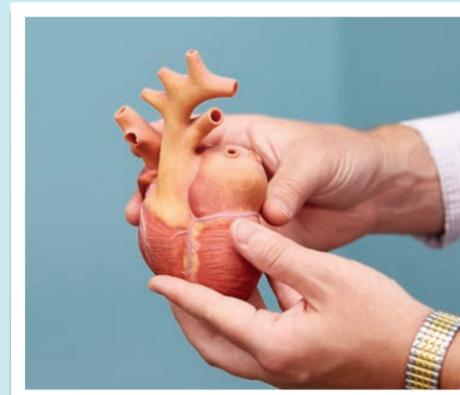
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center ranks **within the top 10** among all Honor Roll hospitals in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2024-2025 Best Children's Hospitals ranking.

Cincinnati Children's is also ranked nationally for Pediatric Cardiology and Heart Surgery, as part of the Joint Heart Program.

In 2020, Cincinnati Children's Hospital was awarded the ACGME and Arnold P. Gold Foundation DeWitt C. Baldwin, Jr. Award. This award recognizes institutions with accredited residency/fellowship programs that are exemplary in fostering a respectful, supportive environment for medical education and the delivery of patient care, which leads to the personal and professional development of learners.

The Department of Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's, affiliated with the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, trains approximately 500 trainees (resident and fellows) in six programs each year, and offers more than 40 ACGME Programs, making our pediatric training program one of the largest and most specialized in the United States.

Additionally, Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation is one of the largest pediatric research programs in the nation.



Explore how Cincinnati Children's is driving bold discoveries across our seven research priority areas—from revolutionizing cancer treatment to unlocking the earliest origins of disease.

**For more info, visit:**  
[cincinnatichildrens.org/research/about](https://cincinnatichildrens.org/research/about)

## About Cincinnati

Cincinnati, with a metropolitan population of 2.2 million, is a vibrant city known for its rich sports culture, home to the Reds (MLB), Bengals (NFL), and FC Cincinnati (MLS). The city also shines in the arts, offering top-tier museums, ballet, opera, symphony, and theater performances, as well as hosting the largest Oktoberfest celebration outside of Munich. Cincinnati offers a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere, featuring affordable housing, charming neighborhoods, and a manageable commute, making it an ideal place to live and visit.

In 2024, *Forbes* named Cincinnati Children's: Among America's Best Employers for Women, and in the top 10 of healthcare employers, Among America's Best Large Employers, A Best Employer for New Graduates

Cincinnati also ranks:

- No. 5 "Best Cities for Single Young Professionals" (*RentHop*, 2024)
- No. 5 Zoo & Botanical Gardens (*USA Today*, 2025)



## Application

Our advanced fellowship program is designed for highly qualified and motivated fellows in pursuit of the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for a successful academic career. To apply for one of our advanced fellowships, please visit [cincinnatichildrens.org/advanced-cardiology-fellowship](http://cincinnatichildrens.org/advanced-cardiology-fellowship).

## Contact Us

Fellowship program director, Ivan Wilmot, MD provide oversight and leadership of the clinical and scholarly aspects of the training program. The team is dedicated to providing a rewarding and challenging experience to every fellow who joins the team. If you have any additional questions, please contact one of our Medical Education Coordinators at [HI.Fellowship@cchmc.org](mailto:HI.Fellowship@cchmc.org).



### Ivan Wilmot, MD

*Director  
Cardiology Fellowship  
Training Program*

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