

**AAST Program Directors Subcommittee Phone Conference**

**Monday, March 27, 2023**

**Notes**

David Feliciano

Yamuna Carey

Katherine Riera

Mary Fallat

Steve Gondek

Nathan Mowery

Tom Carver

Nancy Parks

Lou Magnotti

Mira Ghneim

Douglas Fraser

Alexander Colonna

Mbaga Walusimbi

Stephanie Savage

Linda Maertz

Neils Martin

Dina Filiberto

Nick Nash

Clay Burlew

Luke Hofmann

Mark Falimirski

Allison McNickle

Deepi Koganti

Jen Knight

Jasmeet Paul

Linda Dultz

Rita Brintzenhoff

Ziad Sifri

Anuoluwapo Elegbede

Kaz Matsushima

Nishant Merchant

Peter Fischer

1. Welcome to New PD – David Feliciano
2. Subtracks
   1. Pediatric Curriculum – Mary Fallat

Nancy Parks welcomed Mary Fallat and Katherine Riera to present the pediatric subtrack program. The goal of this program is to increase access to high quality, trauma/ACS pediatric surgical care across the US; Pediatric ACS Subtrack with a Certificate of completion; AAST/APSA joint validated certificate through ACS Fellowship. The goal is not to compete with pediatric surgeons/become pediatric surgeons; rather to identify and train a subset of ACS fellowship trained surgeons with an increased level of pediatric expertise in ACS and trauma to fill some unmet surgical needs.

Program would include pediatric online lectures and written modules.

ACS fellow to complete 3-4 months of pediatric specific training (PICU – 1 months; Pediatric Surgery – 2-3 months).

Caselog minimum numbers:

* Management of non-operative trauma – Pts < 18 years old = 20
* Critical Care Cases – 5 pts < 8 years old = 15
* Operative Trauma/ACS – 5 pts < 8 years old = 20
* Vascular – 5 pts < 8 years old = 5

Can be completed longitudinally throughout fellowship or PICU/Peds surgery rotation.

This has been reviewed with the APSA Board. APSA would be involved with evaluating sites applying to be a part of the program; the site visits themselves; A member of AAST and APSA would serve on ACS Committee. We believe there will be one to two people each year that will be interested.

Still several outstanding details to work through – APSA seal on certificate? Who will pay for site visits or are fees shared? Expertise vs Experience

Goals/Outlined curriculum/survey results/this presentation are available for review.

This is voluntary, you would apply to participate, may not make sense for every site. This is still in development and still needs to be vetted by the AAST Board.

What are the requirements, how did it affect your fellowship experience – Katie Riera is in the process and able to share her experience. Fellows could complete a month in their first year to see if they are interested; 2-3 months in second year depending on which other subspecialties you want to get. What does the job market look like? Seems to be a gray area for care of teens – not necessarily peds, not adult. Some places were interested, and some were not; many hadn’t thought about the need before; helped make her a little more unique in the interviews.

1. Boot Camp

We are moving forward with the planning but the earliest it would be held is 2024. This provides a way to get the fellows together to create camaraderie.

If you are interested in serving on a focus group to work on the curriculum, please email Bridget or Stephanie

1. Supervision Policy Best Practices Sub-group  
   We are looking for volunteers to help evaluate programs’ supervision policy with a check list of elements they should have in their policy. If you are interested in volunteering to work on this project, please email Bridget, Nancy or Tom.
2. The Role of the Fellowship Exam in Training  
   The ACS Committee discussed this topic at their last meeting. There is a concern that Fellows don’t take the exam seriously and don’t try very hard – that they take it just to get it done. Should there be some consequence or conditions around this test?

Suggestions:

* 1. Minimum score, but what are consequences if they do not meet that score?
  2. They don’t get their certificate if they don’t meet a minimum score.
  3. Benchmark against themselves
  4. A lot of learning takes place during the first SCC year; should the exam be taken at the beginning of first year so you can really see the improvement over the course of the fellowship program?
  5. There are a lot of other metrics we can use to evaluate the fellows – Meet the Mentors, Education Modules, etc.
  6. If we do move forward with a higher stakes exam, we will need to make sure the questions are appropriate and valid. This will take a lot of time and would be expensive.

What is the purpose of the final exam? The in-service exam gives a baseline for the knowledge they have at a point in time. Hard to justify making it a high stakes exam when we don’t test at residency level.

The exam was originally given once during the fellowship year. In 2015, we added the second exam to evaluate progress in the ACS year. Committee members seemed to be in favor of moving the in-service exam to the beginning of the SCC year.

1. Reminders

April 18th is the next Meet the Mentors with Dr. Peitzman. Please encourage your fellows to attend and turn their cameras on.

The next Program Directors’ Meeting will be held on Monday, April 24th at 4pm ET/3pm CT/2pm MT/1pm PT.