**FAQs for Pediatric Cardiology Trainees**

1. What is the SPCTPD and how can it help me as a pediatric cardiology fellow?

The Society of Pediatric Cardiology Training Program Directors is a non-profit organization that represents all pediatric cardiology fellowships. Its mission is to promote, maintain, and pursue excellence in the training of pediatric cardiologists (details at [www.spctpd.org](http://www.spctpd.com)) by providing resources to training program directors and by acting as a liaison between other societies such as the Joint Council in Congenital Heart Disease, the Council of Pediatric Subspecialties, the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

SPCTPD also aims to provide information for fellows to help them with career planning and development. In order to do so, there is a subcommittee within SPCTPD (the Fellow Resource and Development Committee) that focuses on the development of a common platform with easy access to resources for fellows. This committee, under the supervision of the SPCTPD board, is spearheaded by a SPCTPD member with fellow representatives from the various organizations and independent fellow representatives appointed by the SPCTPD.

The committee will focus on providing access to resources such as:

* Educational initiatives
* Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) initiatives
* Presentations on career development, building a CV/Educator’s Portfolio, writing an abstract, manuscripts, etc
* Information regarding how to find fourth year fellowships and jobs
* Updates on education and workforce issues

1. Are there any free society memberships for pediatric cardiology fellows?
   1. ACC: Yes, ACC (American College of Cardiology) membership is **free** to all fellows-in-training (FITs) enrolled in an ACGME accredited training program; if you have not yet obtained your free membership, please contact your program director to be enrolled. Be aware that after training this membership continues as a full paying member unless cancelled.
   2. AHA: No, the AHA (American Heart Association) does not provide free membership to fellows. There are a number of awards and fellowship opportunities that come with special presentations at conferences or free membership.
   3. AAP: No, AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) membership is not free for pediatric cardiology trainees. However, the dues for fellowship trainees are deeply discounted and you have access to many AAP resources. Trainee membership is currently **$125 per year,** membership to the section of cardiology and cardiac surgery is an additional **$30 per year**; visit <http://shop.aap.org/aap-membership/>
2. What resources come with fellow membership in these organizations?
   1. ACC membership includes:
      1. Online and print access to *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* as well as all sub-journals (*JACC Heart Failure, JACC Cardiovascular Interventions, JACC Clinical Electrophysiology, JACC Cardiovascular Imaging*)
      2. Discounted membership to the Annual Scientific Sessions
      3. Complementary membership to the 16 ACC Member Sections, which includes the Adult Congenital and Pediatric Cardiology (ACPC) Section
      4. Opportunities to become involved in ACC at a national level including applying for a FIT position on ACC member councils or committees
      5. Opportunities to network with professional peers on a local level through involvement in your ACC state chapter
      6. Eligibility to apply for travel awards to help fund travel to Annual Scientific Sessions
      7. Access to funding opportunities for research
      8. Access to mentoring opportunities (see below)
      9. Opportunities to publish on the Fellows-in-Training page in JACC
      10. Opportunities to develop and publish case challenge, abstract or hot topic submissions to ACC.org on the Adult Congenital and Pediatric Cardiology section of the website
      11. Opportunities to get involved in ACC Legislative Efforts and eligibility for travel awards to attend the Annual Legislative Conference
      12. Opportunities to participate in the annual National Congenital Heart Disease Lobby Day
      13. Involvement with ACC QI efforts and projects, including metric development, data collection, and collaborative QI
      14. Access to the ACC.org website including the “Clinical Topic” section on congenital heart disease and pediatric cardiology, which includes summaries of recent articles in our field with expert commentary as well as patient case quizzes
   2. AHA membership includes:
      1. Affiliation with one of the 16 scientific councils (for example, Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young)
      2. Discounted registration for the Scientific Sessions, specialty conferences, and symposia
      3. Complimentary access to Science OnDemand products
      4. Access to all 11 online AHA scientific journals
      5. Discounts on AHA print journal subscriptions and Wiley-Blackwell books
      6. Access to the online AHA Learning Library (for an additional fee)
      7. Trainee membership includes discounted article publication charges for accepted articles in the Journal of the American Heart Association
      8. Personally tailored email updates of subspecialty content
      9. Opportunities to apply for scholarships and travel grants to AHA scientific meetings
      10. Waived application fee for the AHA research grant
      11. Access to mentoring and early career development opportunities
      12. Inclusion/Access to the online AHA/ASA Professional membership directory
      13. Please see[http://professional.heart.org/professional/membership/membership-tiers.jsp](http://professional.heart.org/professional/membership/membership-tiers.jsp%20) for more information (click on “Membership,” then “Student/Trainee”)
   3. AAP membership includes opportunities to:
      1. Stay current with the latest in pediatrics and infectious diseases with access to Red Book® Online, Pediatrics (print and online),Pediatrics in Review (online), AAP News (print and online), eBreaking News and AAP News OnCall
      2. Implement, manage and evaluate your scholarly activities, ILPs, quality improvement projects and written evaluations with access to PediaLink®
      3. Network with other pediatric fellowship trainees and become involved in the annual advocacy campaign through the Section on Pediatric Trainees (SOPT)
      4. Help your program meet quality improvement requirements with access to EQIPP quality improvement courses that deliver everything you need to identify and close practice gaps
      5. Save money through member discount programs in insurance, credit cards, car rentals, office supplies, website development, pediatric purchasing programs and more
      6. Save money on with membership discounts on AAP products, services, and meetings
      7. Participate as liaisons on national committees
      8. Access the newly developed AAP mentorship program
      9. Free access to PREP subspecialty self-assessment in cardiology as a members of the section on cardiology and cardiac surgery
3. What mentoring is available through these organizations?
   1. ACC offers:
      1. A formal mentoring program that matches mentees/mentors based upon career interest and professional development needs. Mentees complete an online profile, and are matched to mentors based upon shared interest. Once an appropriate match is made, mentors are available to help provide general career advice, provide assistance with CVs and cover letters, help with interview preparation, and provide advice on how to network effectively. For more information regarding the ACC mentoring program, please visit: <http://www.acc.org/membership/member-benefits-and-resources/career-resources/mentoring-program>
   2. AHA offers:
      1. No formal mentorship programs, but there is a list of articles, abstracts, and presentations on finding an effective mentor and building relationships with mentors. These can be found on the Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young Early career development website. Please see: [http://professional.heart.org/professional/MembershipCouncils/UCM\_484440\_Council-on-Cardiovascular-Disease-in-the-Young-CVDY-Career-Development.jsp](http://professional.heart.org/professional/MembershipCouncils/UCM_484440_Council-on-Cardiovascular-Disease-in-the-Young-CVDY-Career-Development.jsp%20)
   3. AAP offers:
      1. AAP Mentorship Program: A free program for all AAP members, which connects mentees to AAP mentors throughout the nation. Mentors are chosen by mentee from a list that is based on your membership profile. Please visit <https://aapmentorship.chronus.com/about>
      2. In addition to this formal program, joining and becoming involved with the AAP and subspecialty sections affords trainees the opportunity to work closely with leaders in their field
4. Where can I find out about open fourth year positions?
   1. <https://spctpd.org/page-1075330>
   2. <http://professional.heart.org/idc/groups/ahamah-public/@wcm/@sop/@smd/documents/downloadable/ucm_484477.pdf>
5. Where can I hear about job listings?
   1. Consider signing up for the “pediheartnet” listserv. Not only are there great discussions about congenital heart disease, but there are often emails about programs recruiting for new faculty. Click the following link and fill out the form to sign-up for the listerv: <http://www.pediheart.net/howto.html>
   2. Another option is sign up for updates from <http://www.pedjobs.org>, The Official AAP Resource for Pediatric Careers
   3. <https://spctpd.org/Job-Listings>
6. Are there any events at each of the national meetings that are specifically targeted for pediatric cardiology trainees?
   1. ACC: The ACC’s Adult Congenital and Pediatric Cardiology (ACPC) Section sponsors a Pediatric Cardiology and CHD Mentoring session at the Annual Scientific Session with presentations on jobs and career advice as well as small group sessions with many of the leaders in the adult congenital and pediatric cardiology communities. Additionally, there are several Fellow-In-Training (FIT) sessions that are applicable to both pediatric and adult cardiology fellows including a “Stump the Professor”, “FIT Jeopardy”, “Careers in Cardiology”, “Scholarship and Education”, and “Acing the Transition” session. There is also an FIT “Mix and Mingle” Session which allows FITs to talk with experts in a variety of fields on a one-on-one basis. This includes a table dedicated to experts in the field of Pediatric Cardiology and Adult Congenital Heart Disease. Additionally, for all pediatric cardiologists (including trainees), there is a congenital heart disease pathway integrated across the three-day ACC meeting including an agenda full of podium and poster presentations containing the latest research and updates in the field of congenital heart disease. Additionally there is a course on “How to become a cardiovascular investigator” offered in November every year. It is directed at both adult and pediatric cardiology fellows interested in a career in clinical, translational, or basic science research.
   2. AHA: As part of the AHA early career programming there is a program on “Innovations in Pediatric Cardiology”. AHA breaks there conference into 20 communities, of which “Congenital Heart Disease and Pediatric Cardiology” is one of the 20. As such all lectures related to pediatric cardiology can be found by searching in this section. There are also a number of Early Career & Fellows-In-Training Programs that are relevant to both pediatric and adult cardiology fellows. The program is a lecture series on early career development targeted at fellows and junior faculty, which also includes a variety of Early Career Networking Receptions/Luncheons for trainees to connect with potential mentors and other trainees. Please see <http://professional.heart.org/professional/index.jsp> for more information (click on “Early Career,” then “Early Career and Fellows in Training Program”).
   3. AAP: There are specific sessions targeted for pediatric cardiology trainees at the AAP National Conference and Exhibition (NCE), which includes the Cardiology Section Scientific Program. This program includes research presentations as well as a fellow research awards. More information can be found at: <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/Committees-Councils-Sections/Cardiology-and-Cardiac-Surgery/Pages/Research-and-Awards.aspx>. Additionally there are a number of lectures by pediatric cardiologist interspersed throughout the general program. There is also a Pediatric Cardiology Fellows’ Workshop at AAP hosted by the SPCTPD which is usually held on the Saturday during the NCE at Noon. Topics such as work force issues, preparing for a job interview, academic tracts, etc. are discussed. This FAQ generation is the end product of one such meeting where a need for a resource/fact sheet was brought up by the participating fellows. Lastly there is a dinner for the SOCCS every year.
7. How can I get more involved in these organizations as a pediatric cardiology trainee?
   1. ACC: There are many opportunities for additional responsibilities within the Fellows-in-training section including: up to 50 available FIT positions on one of ACCs Councils or Committees, opportunities for involvement on a local level within your state’s ACC Chapter, and the opportunity to join the Adult Congenital and Pediatric Cardiology (ACPC) Section to stay involved with ongoing initiatives in this section. The ACC coordinates with several other organizations including the AHA, the NPCQIC, and is involved with several nationwide registries including STS and IMPACT. There are opportunities for FITs to be involved in all of these activities.
   2. AHA: There are opportunities for additional responsibilities within the Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young including participation in the Early Career and Mentoring Committee, which participates in conference planning and Early Investigator Awards.
   3. AAP: There are many leadership opportunities available to pediatric cardiology fellowship trainees within the Section on Pediatric Trainees. These include regional and national leadership positions, as well as outreach “liaison” positions to represent trainees in various groups within the AAP (Council on Pediatric Subspecialties, AAP Committee on Federal Government Affairs, and many more). There are also opportunities to become involved in the AAP Section on Cardiology and Cardiothoracic Surgery (SOCCS), including the recently developed workgroup on Pediatric Cardiology Trainees and Early Career Physicians.
8. Are there any pediatric board review resources available through these organizations?
   1. ACC: The ACC has a multitude of board prep materials which can be found at: <http://www.acc.org/education-and-meetings/products-and-resources/board-prep-offerings>, primarily geared towards adult cardiologists. However, as the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) is launching the Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) Certification Examination, an ACHD Self-Assessment and Board Prep Program is available to ACC members for a reduced fee. This program will be invaluable for pediatric cardiology trainees with an interest in adult congenital heart disease.
   2. AHA: Not currently
   3. AAP: Yes, the AAP hosts an annual Specialty Review course in Pediatric Cardiology for an additional fee. The course is also recorded and sold as a DVD set for fellows who cannot attend the course in person. Course details available at: <http://www2.aap.org/sections/cardiology/resedu.htm>.
   4. In addition, a subspecialty PREP curriculum for Pediatric Cardiology is available at the link above. This is available free to pediatric cardiology fellows whom are members of AAP and members of the section on cardiology and cardiac surgery. Membership to the SOCCS is only an additional $30. If you are not a member of AAP PREP is $269.
9. Is there a listserv or forum through which I can connect with other pediatric cardiology trainees?
   1. AAP: There is no forum specific for pediatric cardiology trainees. However, there is a forum for all fellowship trainees. Section leadership would be willing to consider creating a specific listserv if there is sufficient interest.
   2. The SPCTPD has compiled a registry of all current pediatric cardiology fellows. \*\*\*\*\*\*

***FELLOW RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE***

***Joshua D Kurtz MD****, Medical University of South Carolina (Fellow Liaison – Fellow Resource Development- committee SPCTPD)*

***Sonal T. Owens MD****, University of Michigan (Subcommittee Chair: Fellow Resource Development- SPCTPD)*

***David Brown, MD****, Children’s Hospital of Boston, Harvard University (Immediate Past President SPCTPD)*

***XXXX,*** *XXXXX (Fellow Representative AAP-SOPT)*

***Tarek Alsaied, MD****, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital (Fellow Representative ACC- FIT)*

***XXXX****, XXXXX (Fellow Representative AHA- CVDY)*