



## **Texas Medical Board Program**

### **Aortic Surgery Fellowship 503480414**

#### **I. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM**

The Baylor College of Medicine Aortic Surgery Fellowship Program is a one-year non-ACGME accredited program, which is approved by the Texas Medical Board. The program may be extended to a second year as determined by the program director. Fellows will undergo an evaluation of performance during the academic year which may be used to determine the feasibility of extending their stay.

The mission of this fellowship is to provide specialized training in aortic surgery beyond cardiothoracic residency training in an environment that is aortic-focused and stresses clinical excellence. This fellowship includes an intense clinical experience in aortic and adult cardiac surgery, which includes but is not limited to: the treatment of aortic disease (aneurysms and dissection) utilizing both open and endovascular techniques; the treatment of coronary and valvular disorders (predominantly aortic but also including other heart valves); treatment of pulmonary, esophageal, mediastinal, chest wall, diaphragmatic, and other cardiovascular disorders, as well as the use of cardiac and respiratory support devices.

Specific goals and objectives of the Aortic Surgery Fellowship include:

- A. The fellowship will provide the trainee with knowledge and technical skills in the preoperative evaluation, operative management, and postoperative care of patients with aortic aneurysms and dissection, including those resulting from genetic connective tissue disorders such as Marfan syndrome and Loeys-Dietz syndrome as well as other cardiac diseases. The fellowship will prepare the fellow to function as a qualified practitioner of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at the high level of performance expected of a certified specialist.
- B. The fellow will become skilled in the important diagnostic procedures including ultrasound, computed tomography, roentgenography, radionuclide imaging, and angiography and will learn to interpret all appropriate imaging studies used to assess patients with aortic, cardiac, pulmonary, thoracic vascular, esophageal, mediastinal, and chest wall disease. This aspect of training will be enhanced by daily opportunities to correlate the diagnostic and pathologic aspects of aortic and cardiothoracic disorders.
- C. The fellow will become skilled in providing critical care for patients with aortic, cardiac, thoracic and cardiovascular disorders.

**II. SELECTION OF FELLOWS FOR THE TRAINING PROGRAM** Fellows will be recruited on a yearly basis. Once the applications are received by the November 1st deadline, a fellowship committee chaired by Dr. Joseph Coselli, will review the applications for potential candidates who meet the requirement for appointment to the Aortic Surgery Fellowship. These candidates' credentials will be verified, recommendations will be obtained, and appropriate applicants may be invited to interview for the training program. Notifications of acceptance to the program are made in January of each year following the application deadline.

**III. REQUIRED PRIOR RESIDENCY TRAINING IN A RELATED SPECIALTY** Residents and practicing surgeons who have completed their cardiothoracic surgery training (or equivalent) and desire further training in aortic surgery will be eligible to apply to our program. These applicants must have either completed the required training or be in their final year of training in their home country when they apply to our program. English fluency (both written and spoken) is required

**IV. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FELLOWS** Our program provides experience in the private practice sector primarily at the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital. Experience may also be gained at a Level I trauma center (Ben Taub General Hospital) and in a Veterans Affairs Hospital environment (Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center.) There is extensive hands-on experience in all aspects of the management of aortic and other cardiothoracic surgical patients. Operative experience will be gained in the repair of aneurysms and dissection of the ascending aorta, arch, descending aorta and thoracoabdominal aorta as well as aortic root and aortic valve repair and replacement. These experiences will encompass both open and endovascular repairs. Additional experience in cardiac valve procedures, coronary artery bypass, pulmonary resections, chest wall resections, thoracic vascular repairs, esophageal procedures, and other thoracic surgical operations will also be part of this experience which may also include cardiac transplantation and lung transplantation.

Fellows attend and participate in several multidisciplinary conferences including a weekly cardiothoracic surgery educational conference, a weekly morbidity and mortality conference, Department of Surgery Grand Rounds, and a cardiothoracic surgery journal club.

Many of our faculty have on-going research programs in which the fellows are welcome to participate. Opportunities are available during this fellowship in clinical, translational and basic science research in the cardiothoracic research laboratories with the individual faculty in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. Several outstanding papers and presentations have been prepared by the fellows in this training program and this activity is encouraged.

**V. CURRICULUM** The Aortic Surgery Fellowship Program is organized to emphasize fellow responsibility for patient care and extensive didactic material. Expectations for the fellow's experience include a full understanding of the anatomy, physiology, and planning of specialized aortic and other advanced cardiothoracic operations as well as the technical performance of these procedures. The fellow will further hone skills gained during residency in important diagnostic procedures, such as bronchoscopy and esophagoscopy, will learn to interpret all appropriate imaging studies, and will correlate the pathologic and diagnostic aspects of aortic and cardiothoracic disorders. The fellowship is designed to expose the fellow to a wide variety of complex aortic and other cardiothoracic cases and to allow increasing

responsibility for decision making and operative experience. Fellows are exposed to a large volume of thoracic aortic cases, coronary bypass, routine and complex cardiac valve procedures and general thoracic surgery. Fellows also receive exposure to thoroscopic cases and endovascular aortic procedures. Inpatient postoperative care is also provided by the fellow with increasing responsibility. Outpatient preoperative assessment and postoperative care are also provided by the fellow in thoracic surgery clinic. The program is structured to allow progressive responsibility commensurate with competency for independent practice by the end of the year. In addition to clinical duties, the fellow is expected to prepare research presentations, contribute as needed for the weekly morbidity and mortality conference and assist with teaching students assigned to the service.

**VI. TYPE OF SUPERVISION PROVIDED FOR THE FELLOWS** The fellows are assigned to the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery and work with the faculty members either at The Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Ben Taub General Hospital, or the Veteran's Affairs Hospital. The trainee(s) will not practice as an independent consultant(s). At all times the trainee will be under the supervision of the faculty. There will not be any independent billing by trainees.

**VII. EVALUATION OF THE FELLOWS IN THE TRAINING PROGRAM** The fellows are evaluated on a regular basis with the supervising faculty member and/or the Chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Dr. Joseph Coselli. Daily feedback is also provided to the fellow by the supervising faculty member to foster continual growth during the fellowship period.

**VIII. IS CREDIT GIVEN FOR THIS TRAINING PROGRAM BY A SPECIALTY PROGRAM?** Although this is a non-ACGME accredited program and the fellow will not qualify to take the qualifying or certifying examinations given by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, the program is approved by the Texas Medical Board and Baylor College of Medicine provides a certificate indicating the candidate has satisfactorily completed a Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship at our institution.

#### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Please submit the following to Patricia Carpenter, Academic Administrator for the fellowship program as follows:

**Patricia Carpenter**  
**Academic Administrator, Cardiothoracic Surgery**  
**Baylor College of Medicine**  
**One Baylor Plaza, BCM 390**  
**Houston, TX 77030**  
**Telephone: 832-355-9936**  
**Fax: 832-355-9948**  
**Email: pcarpent@bcm.edu**

1. Completed Baylor College of Medicine House Staff Application [CLICK HERE](#)
2. Completed Baylor College of Medicine Credentialing Application [CLICK HERE](#)
3. Personal statement
4. Curriculum Vitae
5. Three passport-sized photographs (OPTIONAL)
6. Three letters of recommendation from faculty members
  - a. NOTE: Letters should be addressed to:

Joseph S. Coselli, M.D.  
Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Cardiothoracic Fellowship Program  
Baylor College of Medicine  
One Baylor Plaza, BCM 390  
Houston, TX 77030

7. USMLE 1, 2 and 3 Board Scores (Note: These are required without exception for foreign applicants)
8. American Board of Surgery In-Training (ABSITE) exams (required of US applicants)
9. Medical School diploma in its original language, as well as in English (copied and notarized, stating that is a true copy of the original)
10. Medical School transcript in its original language, as well as in English (copied and notarized, stating that is a true copy of the original)
11. Dean's verification of pending or past graduation
12. ECFMG certificate if a foreign medical graduate (copied and notarized). Please allow 4-6 weeks for processing.
13. Completed applications must be submitted by **November 1** of each year for the following July 1 program start date.

For additional questions, please contact Patricia Carpenter directly. Thank you.