

GUIDE TO FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

July 2009

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

This Guide is available on the Cornell Medicine website and is updated regularly.
<http://www.cornellmedicine.com/education/index.html>



Weill Cornell Medical College

┌ New York-Presbyterian Hospital
└ Weill Cornell Medical Center

Table of Contents

Cardiovascular Disease	3
Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism	4
Gastroenterology	6
Geriatric Medicine	8
Hematology and Medical Oncology	10
Infectious Diseases	12
Nephrology	14
Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine	16
Rheumatology	18

Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Application Guide

Fellowship Applications are completed through the American Association of Medical College's Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), which is accessed online. The link to the ERAS web site is: <http://www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm>

Timeline for applications for training beginning on July 1, 2011

Mid-June 2009: MyERAS User Guide available.

July 1, 2009: MyERAS Web site opens to applicants to begin working on their applications.

November 15, 2009: Applicants begin posting their applications to the ERAS system.

December 1, 2009: Programs may begin to review applications.

Note: Actual due dates of applications vary by individual programs. For Cardiovascular Disease at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital (Weill Cornell), see www.cornellcardiology.com/fellowships. Contact each specific program for its deadlines and application requirements. Typical requirements include the ERAS application and 3 professional letters of recommendation.

Late February 2010: Typical due date on which specific programs require application packets to be completed.

Early April 2010: National Resident Matching Program (NMRP) Rank Order list opens for Medical Subspecialties Matching Program (MSMP).

Early June 2010: NMRP MSMP Rank Order list closes.

Mid-June 2010: Match Day for training beginning on July 1, 2011.

July 1, 2011: Training begins in Cardiovascular Disease.

Application Requirements

ERAS application, personal statement and letters of recommendation from three faculty members who have personal knowledge of your professional and personal qualifications. One of these letters should come from your program director or from the service chief under whom you have last served.

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Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism Fellowship Application Guide

Applicants apply for fellowship during their second year of residency. Endocrinology applications follow December Application Cycle with a June Match Date. The fellowship program will begin approximately one year following Match result. Residents applying in the December 2009 would begin fellowship training July 2011.

Fellowship Applications are completed through the American Association of Medical College's Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), which is accessed online. The link to the ERAS web site is: <http://www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm>

Timeline for applications for training beginning on July 1, 2011

Mid-June 2009: The MyERAS user guide is available.

July 1, 2009: MyERAS web site becomes open to applicants. This is the time when you should obtain letters and documents you will need to download as part of your application.

November 15, 2009: Applicants begin posting their applications on ERAS to the programs. Requirements include personal statement and letters of recommendations (Weill Cornell-NYP requests three letters.)

December 1, 2009: Institutions/Programs download the posted ERAS applications. Weill Cornell-NYP downloads applications up to December 15th.

December 2009 – March 2010: Applicants will be contacted by the programs for interviews. (NYP-Weill Cornell schedules interviews in February/March.)

Endocrinology has participated in the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) for the last two years. NYP-Weill Cornell and about 80% of the Endocrinology Programs participate in NRMP.

January 1, 2010: Match registration begins. Rank Order list opens in early April.

First week in June 2010: The deadline for finalizing the Rank Order list for both the applicants and the programs/institutions. Match results are usually announced in mid-June.

General Advice

It is important to review the timeline and registration deadlines for ERAS and NRMP for your specific application year. Deadline dates may vary year to year. If you have conducted Endocrinology research, you should include any representative published articles and be prepared to discuss your work.

Web Resources

ERAS - <http://www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm>

NRMP - <http://www.nrmp.org>

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Gastroenterology Fellowship Application Guide

As of July 2007, the Gastroenterology fellowship program has participated in the ERAS match. This is a change that has greatly benefited the applicants, and upwards of 80% of the nation's programs will participate. For programs that do not participate in the match, there are separate applications. However, if you are considering applying to them, we recommend you speak with one of us first. Fellowship Applications are completed through the American Association of Medical College's Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), which is accessed online. The link to the ERAS web site is: <http://www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm>

Timeline for applications for training beginning on July 1, 2011

Mid-June 2009: MyERAS User Guide available.

July 1, 2009: MyERAS Web site opens to applicants to begin working on their applications

November 15, 2009: Applicants begin posting their applications on ERAS to the programs.

December 1, 2009 – February 1, 2010: The applications are reviewed.

March - April 2010: We issue invitations for interviews. Some programs will interview in February, but almost none in May. Details on match can be obtained from the NRMP's website at www.nrmp.org and a listing of programs participating in the match can be found on the Education and Training Section of www.gastro.org.

Application Requirements

We at NYP-Weill Cornell (and most other programs) will only review completed applications that include 3 letters of recommendation -- one of which must be from the Residency Program Director or Chief of Service. Attendings and the Program Director are usually more than happy to write you letters but are generally quite busy. They may sometimes need gentle reminders (i.e. prodding) to complete these, and thus we would recommend asking some time in August/September.

A Personal Statement is required as well. You will generate a CV via ERAS. Many programs will begin downloading applications immediately upon completion in the ERAS post-office. While we generally wait until our application window has closed before reviewing applications, many programs will look in early January and then only haphazardly after that. Therefore, it greatly behooves you to have the application complete as early as possible (i.e. on December 1).

General Advice

As Gastroenterology has become an increasingly competitive area, it is important to have a research component to your portfolio. Speaking to current residents who have matched for the following year is quite helpful. We also recommend that you meet with either Dr. Ira Jacobson, the Chief of the Division, as well as one of the faculty for guidance. Applying broadly (to top tier programs around the country) or deeply (to many programs in a particular geographic location, such as NYC) is important.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact our Fellowship Program Office at 646- 962-4700 or either one of us.

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Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Application Guide

Geriatric fellowship programs are based in Internal Medicine and Family Medicine programs and last either 1 or 2 years in duration. (Applicants can have completed either residency.) The second year is generally devoted to research and is not ACGME-accredited. (J-1 visa holders are eligible only for a 1-year program.) Some programs offer both 1 year and 2 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 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 may be found on the ERAS website (www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm).

Timeline for applications for training beginning on July 1, 2011

Mid-June 2009: MyERAS Guide available.

July 1, 2009: MyERAS website opens to applicants to begin working on their applications.

July 15, 2009: ERAS opens to July application cycle programs for downloading.

Early to late Fall: Interviews are conducted. Decisions are made on a rolling basis: the earlier one completes an application, the better the chances for availability of openings.

Application Information

There is currently no match for geriatric fellowships, but this is currently under discussion by ADGAP (Association of Directors of Geriatric Academic Programs). Many but not all programs participate in ERAS. Most programs require 3 letters of recommendation from your Program Director and other faculty submitted with the ERAS application. The personal statement and interview are important; offering you the opportunity to express your interest in geriatrics. Research interest and experience is appreciated but not required. Many programs will accept paper applications earlier than July 1 as well.

General Advice

Geriatrics fellowships are excellent training for residents interested in pursuing academic careers. This is still a "young" and under-populated specialty; many areas of research await investigation, and clinician educators are in great demand. Geriatricians must have a broad range of skills in teaching, some clinical work, research, and administration; a combination that keeps you on your toes. Residents planning careers in clinical medicine have a variety of possibilities available after a geriatric fellowship including hospitalist, medical director of long-term care facility, outpatient practice, home care practice, and often some combination. Trainees from New York Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell will not have difficulty finding an excellent position, even starting a little late in the year.

Anyone in the Geriatrics division would be delighted to speak to you about your plans.

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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 afterwards wishes to train in the other subspecialty, two additional years of training (4 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 start reviewing applications shortly after they become available through the ERAS system December 1, *nineteen months* prior to the anticipated fellowship start date of July 1.

Timeline for applications for training beginning on July 1, 2011

Mid-June 2009: The MyERAS user guide is available.

July 1, 2009: MyERAS web site becomes open to applicants. This is the time when you should obtain letters and documents you will need to download as part of your application.

November 15, 2009: Applicants begin posting their applications on ERAS to the programs. Requirements include personal statement and letters of recommendations (Weill Cornell-NYP requests three letters.)

December 1, 2009: Institutions/Programs download the posted ERAS applications. Weill Cornell-NYP downloads applications up to December 15th.

February –April 2010: Applicants will be contacted by the programs for interviews.

January 1, 2010: Match registration begins. Rank Order list opens in early April.

First week in June 2010: The deadline for finalizing the Rank Order list for both the applicants and the programs/institutions. Match results are usually announced in mid-June.

Application Requirements

The ERAS application consists of your CV, NBME (board) scores, three (or more) letters of recommendation (one from your residency program director), and a personal essay.

General Advice

The decision to pursue fellowship training in hematology and oncology directly after residency training must be made during the first half of the second year of residency, and the application must

be complete by approximately December 1 of that same year (or shortly thereafter). 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 anti-cancer 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/Oncology is a wide, interesting field, and our faculty here at Weill Cornell/NYPH can help you determine what your research interests might be.

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Infectious Diseases Fellowship Application Guide

Most infectious Disease programs require the submission of applications through ERAS (Electronic Residency Application Service) on the December cycle. Information regarding registration, policies and procedures may be found on the ERAS website (www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm). However, *application deadlines and requirements are program specific*; therefore you should also check individual ID program web sites.

Most ID training programs participate in the Medical Specialties Matching Program (MSMP). Check the MSMP website (www.nrmp.org/fellow/match_name/msmp/dates.html) for participating programs and specific dates in the year in which you apply. In general, you should anticipate gathering letters of recommendation and writing your personal statement, beginning in July of your 2nd year of Residency.

Timeline for applications for training beginning on July 1, 2011

Mid-June 2009: MyERAS User Guide available.

July 1, 2009: MyERAS Website opens to applicants to begin working on their applications.

November 15, 2009: Applicants begin posting their applications to the ERAS system.

December 1, 2009: Programs begin downloading completed applications.

December 2009 - May 2010: Interviews are conducted.

January 2010: Registration for the match. Rank Order list opens in early April.

Early June 2010: NMRP MSMP Rank Order list closes.

Late June 2010: Match Day for training beginning on July 1, 2011.

Remember that you apply *1 year in advance* i.e. if you apply in your 2nd year of residency you will start the fellowship after you've finished your 3rd year. If you apply in your 3rd year you will have a year "off" before you begin your ID fellowship unless you are able to obtain an unmatched position outside of the match.

General Advice

Think about what kind of ID 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 governmental positions? Does the program have a T32 training grant to support fellow research? Can you obtain auxiliary training (MPH etc.)? Do most fellows do a 2 or 3 year ID fellowship? Only 2 years are required for ABIM board certification, but for research careers at least 3 years of fellowship is the norm. Take time writing your personal statement to be sure it truly reflects why you are interested in ID and what your career goals are. A rehash of your statement from medical school or residency will not suffice. If possible add in

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 disease expert who says that you are one of the top 5 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 on an interview. Write and 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 e-mail of thanks, but be genuine. And if you are really interested, send a second e-mail 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 use our connections – someone in Medicine can make a call for you.

Contacts

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Nephrology Fellowship Application Guide

The general application process for Nephrology Fellowship involves completing an on-line application in the ERAS system. Information regarding registration, policies and procedures may be found on the ERAS website (www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm). The New York Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell program has 8 fellows, and our program is a 2-year fellowship. We recruit 4 fellows each year. There may be opportunities for interested fellows to complete an additional third year of fellowship in Transplantation or Hypertension.

Timeline for applications for training beginning on July 1, 2011

Mid June 2009: MyERAS User Guide available.

July 1, 2009: MyERAS website opens to applicants to begin working on their applications.

November 15, 2009: Applicants may submit applications via the ERAS system.

December 1, 2009: ERAS applications are downloaded by the individual Nephrology Programs for positions starting 18 months later.

January through May 2010: Selected applicants are invited for interviews.

First week in June 2010: Match day. Most programs, including our own, recruit entirely through the match. A very small percentage of programs may recruit fellows outside of the match.

General Advice

Nephrology is a tremendously exciting subspecialty with a myriad of diverse job opportunities. The Weill Cornell Program is world-renowned in the areas of Transplantation, Dialysis and Hypertension. Our 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. Exposure to nephrology during residency may not encompass all of the exciting opportunities in this subspecialty. 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 Silberzweig (Rogosin Institute), and Dr. Ilya Glezerman (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center).

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 resident's program and will reimburse the costs of residents attending the meeting. Please contact Sue Campus 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 Fellowship Application Guide

There are approximately 130 training programs in Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine accredited by the ACGME. Application to virtually all of them (exceptions are in the single digits) are made through the American Association of Medical College's Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), which is accessed via the Internet. Information regarding registration, policies and procedures may be found on the ERAS website (www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm).

Timeline for applications for training beginning on July 1, 2011

Mid-June 2009: MyERAS User Guide available.

July 1, 2009: MyERAS Web site opens to applicants to begin working on their applications.

November 15, 2009: Applicants may submit applications via the ERAS system.

December 1, 2009: Programs may begin to review applications.

Note: Actual due dates of applications vary by individual programs in Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine. Contact each specific program for its deadlines and application requirements. Typical requirements include the ERAS application and 3 professional letters of recommendation.

Late February 2010: Typical due date on which specific programs require application packets to be completed.

Early April 2010: National Resident Matching Program (NMRP) Rank Order list opens for Medical Subspecialties Matching Program (MSMP).

Early June 2010: NMRP MSMP Rank Order list closes.

Mid-June 2010: Match Day for training beginning on July 1, 2011.

July 1, 2011: Training begins in Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine.

General Advice

The *crucial item* on the critical path to application for subspecialty training is the securing of *three (3) professional letters of recommendation*. If you are reading this, it is not too early to consult with your Internal Medicine program director for guidance in selecting faculty to approach for letters of recommendation as mentorship. 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.

For further information about subspecialty training in pulmonary diseases and critical care medicine, please feel free to contact any of the following individuals.

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Rheumatology Fellowship Application Guide

Virtually all rheumatology programs, including the HSS Rheumatology fellowship program, fill their fellowship positions via a Match, which is conducted by the National Residency Matching Program (NRPM). The Match is held in June of the year prior to when the fellowship begins. Applications are transmitted to programs via the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). Information regarding registration, policies and procedures may be found on the ERAS website (www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm).

Timeline for applications for training beginning on July 1, 2011

Mid-June 2009: MyERAS User Guide available.

July 1, 2009: MyERAS Web site opens to applicants to begin working on their applications. Contact Programs to find out if they require any information other than what can be submitted via ERAS. Submit application to ERAS. Contact ERAS for information on when applications may be submitted as dates vary.

November 15, 2009: Applicants may submit applications via the ERAS system.

December 1, 2009: Programs may begin to review applications.

January – May of PGY2 year: Interview with programs. Contact individual programs to determine interview dates.

Early April 2010: National Resident Matching Program (NMRP) Rank Order list opens for Medical Subspecialties Matching Program (MSMP).

Early June 2010: NMRP MSMP Rank Order list closes.

Mid-June 2010: Match Day for training beginning on July 1, 2011.

Web Resources

ERAS - <http://www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm>

NRPM - <http://www.nrmp.org>

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