

**T**hank you for your interest in the fellowship training program in Cardiovascular Disease at the University of Florida. Details about our division and faculty can be found at <https://cardiology.medicine.ufl.edu/>. The overall objective of the program is postgraduate Education in the field of cardiovascular disease, which includes major emphasis on both research and clinical training. The University of Florida offers a wealth of opportunities and an internationally recognized faculty to support the trainee. Our hospitals serve as major referral centers for much of northern and central Florida, as well as southern sections of Georgia. Our major teaching facilities include Shands Hospital and the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Faculty members of the University of Florida attend all patients in these hospitals.

All fellows rotate through the inpatient cardiology teaching service, outpatient cardiovascular clinics, clinical electrophysiology service, consultative service, echocardiography and other noninvasive laboratories, catheterization laboratory, and intensive care units. The duration of training in each area is flexible and depends on level of interest and aptitude. A fourth year of fellowship training is available in clinical electrophysiology, interventional cardiology, heart failure/transplantation, or basic research. The fellowship program follows the general guidelines for cardiology training as recommended by the American College of Cardiology as outlined in the COCATS document (J Am Coll Cardiol 2008; 51 (3):339). Our curriculum provides a well rounded exposure to clinical and academic cardiology as manifest by a 100% board pass rate.

The in-patient cardiology teaching and cardiology consultative services encompass a wide variety of cardiology problems including interventional procedures, arrhythmias, heart failure and cardiac transplantation, as well as the perioperative evaluation of cardiac patients admitted for non-cardiac surgical procedures. Adult patients with congenital heart disease are frequently seen in the cardiology clinics and also on the in-patient service. Most of these patients have had palliative or corrective surgery in childhood but now are experiencing arrhythmias, heart failure, coronary disease, hypertension, lipid abnormalities, etc.

In the catheterization laboratory all diagnostic (including intracoronary Doppler and intravascular ultrasound) and interventional coronary and peripheral disease techniques are in use. Other procedures include myocardial biopsies, mitral valvuloplasties, and alcohol septal ablation for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Some current projects underway include: 1) multicenter trials assessing acute re-closure and restenosis in coronary angioplasty; 2) new stents and other devices; 3) WISE (Women's Ischemia Syndrome Evaluation) an NHLBI study of women with chest pain; 5) intracoronary ultrasound study of reversing early atherosclerosis with high dose lipid lowering (REVERSAL); 6) vascular growth factors to promote collaterals.

The clinical echocardiography laboratories offer a full range of diagnostic echocardiography

services including standard transthoracic 2-dimensional echocardiography, Doppler and color flow imaging, transesophageal echocardiography, and stress echocardiography. The laboratory also supports intraoperative transesophageal evaluation during cardiac surgical procedures (valve repair and replacement, repair of thoracic aortic dissection, etc.), and transseptal catheterization for mitral valvuloplasty and radiofrequency ablation of left-sided pathways. The laboratory is involved in a variety of clinical investigative projects including a multicenter study, the WISE study echocardiographic evaluation of the efficacy of new heart failure treatments, and novel applications of strain imaging using speckle tracking echocardiography. In addition, the laboratory provides support for a variety of projects performed by other members of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine.

Our *clinical electrophysiology service* is a comprehensive, large volume service offering a full range of state of the art electrophysiology services to our patients in both the inpatient and outpatient clinical setting. We serve as a referral center for the ablation of complex arrhythmias including congenital arrhythmias within the state of Florida as well as the surrounding states. A list services we offer to our patients includes: diagnostic electrophysiology study, radiofrequency catheter ablation of standard and complex supraventricular and ventricular arrhythmias including atrial fibrillation ablation, implantation of pacemakers and defibrillators, tilt table testing and biventricular pacing. Additionally, our affiliated Veteran's Administration Hospital serves as a high volume center of excellence in the Veteran's Health Care System for the treatment of cardiac rhythm disorders boasting a new biplane ablation laboratory and two full-time staff electrophysiologists. We are actively involved in clinical research currently enrolling patients in several large multicenter investigations in the areas of arrhythmia ablation, device and drug therapy for the treatment of cardiac rhythm disorders and heart failure.

Our *heart failure and transplantation service* is one of the largest in the country with an active inpatient service and outpatient heart failure clinics. Fellows have the opportunity to utilize all modern methods for the efficient evaluation and management of patients with advanced heart failure. In addition to a large clinical scope, there are a number of research activities including Phase III clinical trials in heart failure and new immunosuppressive regimens, pharmacoeconomic studies, and database related investigation. Other collaborative clinical research involving heart failure and transplant patients includes exercise physiology and body composition with members of the College of Health and Human Performance, and quality of life and other psychosocial issues with our clinical psychologists.

Numerous short- and long-term clinical trials are underway involving the use of new pharmacotherapeutic agents for the treatment of many aspects of cardiovascular disease. We are part of a 40-center, 11-year NIH-sponsored trial, the Women's Health Initiative (WHI), which includes hormone replacement and dietary modification trials to reduce heart disease and cancer in post-menopausal women. We are also part of a four-center NIH-funded study directed at evaluating diagnostic modalities in women with chest pain. We are investigating several new compounds in their early phase of clinical investigation for ischemia, arrhythmias and heart failure. We are also evaluating the effects of various agents on coronary artery endothelial dysfunction. We are also conducting an international clinical trial to evaluate two different medication strategies for the treatment of hypertension in patients with coronary artery disease. Members of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine have developed and patented an electronic system to conduct clinical investigations via the Internet, which includes electronic prescribing. Many other basic science and

clinical trials are underway as well. Cardiovascular Fellowship appointments are for three years' duration. The level of financial support depends upon the number of years of postgraduate training according to University of Florida guidelines. All fellows are encouraged to develop and submit a proposal for extramural research funding (with faculty assistance) after the first year of training. If this is not possible despite the effort, the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine will fund the fellow from institutional sources.

Please indicate your future plans. Enclose a standard photo with your application and at least three letters of reference including one from your Internal Medicine Program Director. Please submit your application to meet the July 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for acceptance of completed applications via ERAS. Please address all future correspondence inquiries to: **Dori Romrell, Program Coordinator, PO BOX 100288, Gainesville, FL 32610** or [Dori.Romrell@medicine.ufl.edu](mailto:Dori.Romrell@medicine.ufl.edu) .