

Announcing the PICS Early Career Development Academy

*Application deadline: **Friday January 31, 2024***

The *PICS Early Career Development Academy* will advance professional development of early career pediatric, congenital & adult congenital interventional cardiologists.¹ The *Academy* is a unique global two-year program blending mentor supervision and team-based learning.

The *Academy* will meet needs expressed by training directors and early career physicians for such a program following completion of training. PICS recognizes there are many different training pathways, thus we encourage applications from all who are dedicated to this field.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

If you completed your formal training within the past five years, the *Academy* has been designed for **you**.

HOW IS THE ACADEMY STRUCTURED ?

• Hybrid program: online & in-person	• Didactic instruction plus team activities
• 25 early career physicians to be selected	• 60 faculty from centers worldwide
• 5 teams: 5 participants and 1 mentor per team. Participants from around the globe	• Program Directors Drs. Gianfranco Butera & Aimee Armstrong
• Each team will be assigned a 2-year research project	• Mentors: Drs. Lee Benson, Mario Carminati, John Cheatham, Ziyad Hijazi, Shakeel Qureshi
• Two challenges: interim review paper & final case presentation	• Winning team declared at end; recognition and certificate of distinction for all participants

Didactic content will cover clinical topics, resilience during difficult situations, teamwork, medical reasoning, research methodology, industry collaboration and much more.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND COSTS

There will be no tuition charge or fees for those accepted into the *Academy*. Funding from industry sponsors and foundations is being raised to cover travel costs to three in-person sessions during the two-year program. Applicants should submit a CV, complete an application form, and ask a mentor or other individual to submit a recommendation letter.

I'M INTERESTED. HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY ?

Application form & more information are available from nlinsky@CHDinterventions.org

We look forward to your application !

¹ Collectively referred to in this program as “congenital interventional cardiologists”

Early Career Development Academy

The PICS Society is getting ready to launch a fantastic new project advancing professional development of early career pediatric and congenital interventional cardiologists globally. This 2-year hybrid program will have virtual and in-person components encompassing didactics, team learning, mentorship research and simulations. We recently chatted Academy Co-directors Drs. Gianfranco Butera and Aimee Armstrong to learn more.

(Dr. Kamel Shibbani, KS): Thank you for taking time to talk about this exciting project.

(Dr. Gianfranco Butera, GB): The Early Career Development Academy is our effort to create a global program for interventional cardiologists in the early parts of their career. The idea is to bring together 25 physicians from across the globe and divide them into teams, each having a senior interventional cardiologist as mentor. There will be regular talks for the attendees as well as assigned projects or “challenges” for the teams.

There will be about one webinar monthly covering technical issues, procedures, and devices in congenital interventional cardiology. There will also be 3 dedicated in-person sessions at two PICS meetings and another meeting. We will have talks about soft skills, team building, dealing with complications and much more. Experts from other fields will talk about issues that overlap with our own field such as the importance of checklists, resilience, leadership, and how to create a healthy work-life balance.

The “challenges” will include preparing a review paper, creating a research or QI project and writing a case presentation. These will be done under the mentors’ guidance and will promote collaboration within each team.

(Dr. Aimee Armstrong, AA): The PICS Society Early Career Development Committee sent a survey spearheaded by Dr. Varun Aggarwal to interventional training programs to get a sense of the current state of interventional training around the world. Important feedback was that early career interventionalists need ongoing professional development and development of clinical skills. The Academy is crafted to support professional development of early career interventionalists through didactics, discussions, and formal mentorship.

(KS): Can you talk more about faculty involved in the Early Career Development Academy?

(AA): We have 60+ faculty who have agreed to participate in the academy ! For the most part, talks will be given by senior interventional cardiologists from around the world. The 5 mentors are senior leaders: Drs. Lee Benson, Mario Carminati, John Cheatham, Ziyad Hijazi, and Shakeel Qureshi.

(KS): This sounds like a wonderful opportunity and an effort to include junior interventionalists globally.

(GB): Absolutely. We want this to be an opportunity for early career interventionalists globally ! One goal is to build a global community for early career interventionalists to learn from each other.

(AA): Yes, very important to us! We will include participants from each continent. We will vary lecture times to ensure people in different time zones can participate in most lectures. This will be a great opportunity for early career interventionalists to connect with senior mentors, faculty and peers.

(KS): Can you tell us more about the application process?

(GB): We want participants to have completed CHD interventional training within the past five years or less. There will be no tuition charge or other fees. The applicants will submit a CV, a recommendation letter and an application form. Contact PICS at nlinsky@CHDinterventions.org to receive the application form.

(KS): What is the timeline for launching the Early Career Development Academy?

(AA): The Academy will launch in spring 2024. Application form available at <https://www.picsymposium.com>.