

## **Apply to the PICS Early Career Development Academy**

*Application deadline: **Friday February 9, 2024***

**The PICS Early Career Development Academy will advance professional development of 25 early career congenital (pediatric or adult congenital) interventional cardiologists. If minimally invasive treatment of congenital heart disease (CHD) is part of your practice (and you completed interventional training between 2019 to 2023), apply by **February 9**.**

The *Academy* is a unique global two-year program blending mentor supervision and team-based learning. The *Academy* will meet needs identified by program directors, training directors and early career physicians for mentoring following completion of formal training. Didactic content will cover clinical topics, difficult situations, teamwork, medical reasoning, research methodology, industry collaboration and more.

### **WHO SHOULD APPLY TO THE ACADEMY?**

If you completed your CHD interventional training between 2019 to 2023, the *Academy* has been designed for **you**. Twenty-five ***PICS Early Career Academy Fellows*** will be selected based on objective review of all applications.

PICS recognizes there are multiple training pathways in the sub-specialty of interventional treatment of CHD: fellowships, mentorships, part of pediatric or adult congenital cardiology training or others. We encourage applications from all early career pediatric/adult congenital cardiologists who treat CHD as part of current clinical responsibilities

### **THE ACADEMY'S LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Enhance knowledge base about interventional techniques
- Undergo hands-on simulation training for complex procedures
- Improve decision-making before & during cases
- Promote academic productivity and research
- Provide mentorship for research and career building
- Enhance leadership skills, resilience & soft skills
- Understand value of innovation via industry collaboration
- Collaborate with peers and leaders globally

### **APPLICATION PROCESS AND COSTS**

There will be no tuition charge or fees. 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 your current supervisor to send us a recommendation letter stating you will be given limited time off for *Academy* activities. A second letter from a physician who trained you in congenital interventions is highly desirable as well, especially if you and your current supervisor just recently started working together.

### **I'M INTERESTED. HOW DO I APPLY ?**

The application form is at this URL: <http://www.chdinterventions.org/> or click [HERE](#) .  
Questions? Email [nlinsky@CHDinterventions.org](mailto:nlinsky@CHDinterventions.org) and [dkichka@CHDinterventions.org](mailto:dkichka@CHDinterventions.org)

**We look forward to your application !**

<b>Structure of the PICS Society Early Career Development Academy</b>	
<b>Hybrid two-year program</b> , including online and in-person components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online: 1 to 3 hours per month of webinars</li> <li>• In-person: 3 sessions during 2024-25</li> </ul>
<b>25 early career physicians (PICS Academy Fellows)</b>	Feedback obtained throughout to modify program as necessary
<b>Five teams</b> (five participants per team + one mentor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants from many countries</li> <li>• Each team will develop and conduct a research project</li> </ul>
<b>Mentors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each team will have mentor to guide research activities</li> <li>• Mentor will advise team members individually and as a group</li> <li>• Mentor will assist team during two intermediate challenges</li> </ul>
<b>Two intermediate challenges</b> per team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizing Committee will pick five topics &amp; assign one per team</li> <li>• Each team will have two challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Review paper challenge</u>: Write a paper for publication</li> <li>▪ <u>Case presentation</u>: Each team will prepare &amp; present a case</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Each paper &amp; case will be presented and graded</li> <li>• Presented in-person, judged and winning team announced</li> </ul>
<b>Final evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess teams' research, assess Academy process</li> <li>• Adjust Academy program &amp; publish educational model should other medical specialties wish to adopt</li> </ul>
<b>Didactic topics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical topics</li> <li>• Building emotional resilience in difficult times (complications, errors, nightmare cases, unlucky cases, confrontations)</li> <li>• Team building activities &amp; principles</li> <li>• Medical reasoning (analytical vs. pattern-based)</li> <li>• Research methodology</li> <li>• Importance of physician/industry/academia partnerships</li> </ul>
<b>Leadership, faculty and staffing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60+ faculty members from centers worldwide</li> <li>• Program directors: Drs. Gianfranco Butera &amp; Aimee Armstrong</li> <li>• Organizing Committee: PICS Early Career Committee</li> <li>• Five senior mentors, all highly experienced key opinion leaders</li> <li>• Staffing: PICS educational and conference support staff</li> </ul>
<b>Application process and timeline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements: CV, recommendation letter, application form</li> <li>• Applicants must be no more than 5 years post-interventional training/fellowship (2019 to present)</li> <li>• Diversity geographically &amp; other factors a core goal</li> <li>• Timeline: Announced at PICS Sept 2023; Application form now on PICS website; complete selections early 2024, launch online didactic sessions; 3 in-person meetings during the two years</li> </ul>

	<b>PICS Early Career Academy Topics (preliminary)</b>
<b>DAY 1</b>	Introduction to the course and welcome the 25 PICS Academy Fellows Introduction of the five teams to their mentors Launch first challenge: write review paper on a topic Lecture: informed consent and talking with parents Lecture: radiation exposure, protection & reporting
<b>DAY 2</b>	Hemodynamic assessment: tips & tricks 3D rotational angiography Hemodynamics in pericardial & myocardial disease
<b>DAY 3</b>	Unusual vascular access including hybrid Closure devices and hemostasis techniques Access complications and management
<b>DAY 4</b>	Complex atrial defect closure Closure of ASD in special situations: elderly, pulmonary hypertension, PA-IVS Treating residual post-surgical defects Transcatheter ASD procedures under echo guidance only
<b>DAY 5</b>	Complex patent ductus arteriosus closure PDA closure in preemies PDA closure in adults
<b>DAY 6</b>	Transcatheter treatments in pulmonary atresia/IVS Transcatheter treatments in PA/VSD Building emotional resilience in difficult times—how to?
<b>DAY 7</b>	Rehabbing the branch pulmonary arteries How to pick the right stent How to modify stents Leading peers
<b>DAY 8</b>	PDA stenting for ductal-dependent pulmonary blood flow RVOT stenting in infancy How to prevent and/or deal with difficult discussions with parents
<b>DAY 9</b>	Leadership lessons Day of the challenge, Intermediate challenge per team: -Review paper writing per team -Each team presents (12 min +5 min discussion) -Evaluation by the Panel
<b>DAY 10</b>	Transcatheter closure of VSD Closure of coronary artery fistulas Vessel embolization
<b>DAY 11</b>	Transseptal puncture Creating an inter-atrial communication Creating a Fontan fenestration
<b>DAY 12</b>	Reopening of peripheral & central arteries and veins Sinus venosus defects and transcatheter closure Leadership roles and approaches in different phases of professional life
<b>DAY 13</b>	TPVR with balloon expandable valves TPVR for the native/patched RVOT (Alterra device, Harmony) TPVR for the native/patched RVOT (Venous P valve, PULSTA valve) TPVR for native/patched RVOT (Pulsta valve)
<b>DAY 14</b>	Hybrid stage I procedure and PDA stenting for systemic blood flow Hybrid approach: defect closure Hybrid approach: stent implantation Surgical points of view on hybrid, stents in their way & other hardware

	<b>PICS Early Career Academy Topics (preliminary)</b>
<b>DAY 15</b>	Presentation tips and tricks Lymphatic interventions Percutaneous mitral valve interventions—acquired pathology
<b>DAY 16</b>	Quality improvement in the cath lab Work-life balance When your partner is not in medicine When your partner is also in medicine
<b>DAY 17</b>	Imaging & treating coronary arteries in children What our children should know about our job, how and when Case that almost made me quit medicine
<b>DAY 18</b>	Team building principles and activities Retrieval techniques Cathing on ECMO Percutaneous VADs
<b>DAY 19</b>	The day of the challenge, intermediate challenge per team: - Case presentation meeting with grading - Each team presents (12 min + 5 min discussion) - Evaluation by the Panel
<b>DAY 20</b>	Building your career from the very early stages—younger perspective Building your career from the very early stages—senior perspective
<b>DAY 21</b>	Mid-aortic syndrome intervention(s) 3D fusion-live integration & overlay of 3D data from MRI & CT 3D printed and augmented reality Complex aortic coarctation and aneurysm disease
<b>DAY 22</b>	Fetal interventions Medical thinking and decision analysis Finding and developing a professional niche When is it time to change & find another team/hospital/mentor
<b>DAY 23</b>	Pulmonary venous interventions Research methodology in the cath lab Medical writing Importance of collaboration with industry for R & D & professional development
<b>DAY 24</b>	How to work in a multidisciplinary team When a nurse/radiologist/fellow rescued my case! The surgical perspective on working with interventionalists
<b>DAY 25</b>	Nurse perspective X-ray technician perspective Patients' associations—how they could help
<b>DAY 26</b>	How to develop skills/knowledge to do ACHD transcatheter procedures Human leadership approach Deciding under pressure (military/medical perspective)
<b>DAY 27</b>	The profound meaning of checklist process (airline perspective) Leadership lessons from other worlds Negotiating contracts and managing finances
<b>DAY 28</b>	Day of the challenge, final challenge per team: —Research projects & presentation at PICS —Each team presents (12 min + 5 min. discussion) —Evaluation by the Panel  <b>GRADUATION DAY!</b>