

AASPD Panel: Update from the Subs: Where are we headed and what have we have learned: Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesia (ACTA) Update

SAAA 2017 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
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The ACTA Fellowship was ACGME approved in 2007, but remains without a certification exam (see below). A summary of current topics and issues being discussed by the ACTA PDs and affecting the ACTA Fellowships are outlined below.

ACTA Fellowship Match:

Five successful matches using SF Match have now occurred since 2013 (see below). In the 2017 match the increased number of ACTA applicants continued from 2016, relative to the previous 3 years. Sixty-four ACGME-approved ACTA programs participated (up from 60), representing 210 total positions (up from 199). Most of the withdrawals each year are presumed to be individuals matching to a 2-year CT/SICU fellowship that choose to start with their ICU fellowship first, followed by an ACTA fellowship. 13 applicants made a 2yr agreement, many of these would be ICU fellows who chose to do their CT fellowship first. There were 43 pre-match “agreements” (recorded independently from SF match, through the SCA website tool) – this was up from last year (32), but fewer than the high of 56 (2014). The content of the electronic application for the 2018 match has been updated to include fellow interest in a combined adult cardiothoracic anesthesiology and critical care medicine fellowship.

Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Fellowship	June 2013	June 2014	June 2015	June 2016	June 2017
APPLICANT DATA					
Applicant registrations	267	268	268	331	316
# Applicant Rank Lists Submitted	230	213	211	258	258
Matched Total	166	172	182	199	202
Unmatched Total	64	41	29	59	56
Applicant Matching % (Overall)	72%	81%	86%	77%	78%
Total # of Withdrawals	9	21	14	25	22
PROGRAM DATA					
# of Participating Programs	54	55	57	60	64
Positions Offered	168	174	183	199	207
Positions Filled	166	172	182	199	202
Unfilled Positions	2	2	1	0	5
MATCH EXCEPTIONS					
Internal candidate	31	46	21	21	27
Commitment to come to institution for more than 1 year	7	8	9	10	13
Active military	3	1			1
Spouse/partner	1		1		
Residency outside US		1		1	2
Residency outside US not eligible for ABA certification due to non-US training					

Timelines for the upcoming June 2018 Match are as follows.

- Friday, November 10, 2017 Applicant registration begins
- Monday, April 30, 2018 CAS deadline date (suggested)
- Monday, June 4, 2018 Rank lists must be submitted by 12:00 PM PST.
- Monday, June 18, 2018 Match results available to programs/applicants
- Wednesday, June 20, 2018 Vacancies listed on SF Match

Fellow/Program Director Questionnaire:

Using the pediatric anesthesia fellowship questionnaire as a template, a task force (Shook/Ural/Augoustides) edited and modified with input from PDs to be pertinent to the ACTA fellowship. Data processing still occurring.

ACGME Case Log:

After a failed first attempt (July 2016), roll out of the required ACGME case log for fellows occurred in time for the July 2017 year. In collaboration with the NBE, a printout format was created that summarizes TEE cases (performed and interpreted, and interpreted only) in a format suitable for submission for TEE certification. The tool should provide a useful way for Fellows to record their cases, but also provide data for ongoing monitoring of trends in ACTA fellow activities in future years.

Fellow Web Seminars:

The ACTA fellow web seminar task force (Weitzel, Bottiger, Ahlgren, Stafford Smith) have developed several online media to complement the existing 15 presentations constituting the SCA fellowship lecture series, for use by ACTA fellowships through the SCA website. Since proof of concept occurred through two well received prototypes, several more brief (15 min) videos have been created – these involved an interviewer (Bottger, Ahlgren) and two guests - all involved topics presented in a PBLD format at the SCA annual meeting and were filmed onsite soon after the PBLD. The SCA Board is in support, and a proposal is being considered to transition this successful idea into a more formal video pipeline through scheduling selected PBLDs each year for subsequent filming at future annual meetings.

ACTA Fellowship Certification:

The ACTA PD continue to voice concerns that the demands of the TEE certification exam during the ACTA fellowship distract from a balanced learning experience. The belief is that a comprehensive certification exam covering all aspects of ACTA anesthesia would re-balance this disequilibrium. The ABA and other options all continue to be explored as viable SCA-sponsored pathways towards such a certification exam.