

UC Davis Department of Pediatrics Pediatric Fellowship Information Guide

1. Do I want to do a Pediatric Subspecialty Fellowship?

This is an individual choice, which must take into account your personal and professional goals and interests. Please refer to the AAP Policy Statement on Fellowship Training for an overview of the objectives of fellowship training. The Council of Pediatric Subspecialties website provides detailed descriptions of pediatric subspecialties, including information about salaries and lifestyle. Please visit <http://www.pedsubs.org/SubDes/index.cfm>

2. Who can I contact at UC Davis for advice if I already know what subspecialty I am interested in?

Subspecialty	Mentor
Adolescent	Laura Kester, MD
Allergy/Immunology	Marc Ikeda, MD
Anesthesiology	Niroop Ravula, MD
Cardiology	Jay Yeh, MD
Child Abuse	Kevin Coulter, MD
Child Development	Robin Hansen, MD
Critical Care	Theresa Murdock-Vlautin, MD Sara Aghamohammadi, M.D.
Emergency Medicine	Nate Kupperman, MD, MPH Cheryl Vance, MD
Endocrinology	Dennis Styne, MD
General Pediatrics	Robert Byrd, MD, MPH Patrick Romano, MD, MPH
Genetics	Kate Rauen, MD
GI	David Kawatu, MD
Hematology/Oncology	Anjali Pawar, MD
Hospitalist	Cherie Ginwalla, MD; Jennifer Rosenthal, MD
Infectious Diseases	Dean Blumberg, MD
Neonatology	Catherine Rottcamp, MD
Nephrology	Lavjay Butani, MD
Neurology	Celia Chang, MD
Pulmonology	Kiran Nandalike, MD
Rheumatology	
Sports Medicine	

3. What resources are available to answer my questions about pediatric fellowships?

- a) **The Council of Pediatric Subspecialties:** Provides detailed descriptions of pediatric subspecialties, including information about salaries, lifestyle and application deadlines. <http://www.pedsubs.org/SubDes/index.cfm>
- b) **National Resident Matching Program (NRMP):** Manages most subspecialty matches. The NRMP website provides information on pediatric subspecialties participating in a particular subspecialty match. It provides deadlines for registration and rank order list submission, as well as a list of the fellowship programs which participated in the prior year's match ("Participating Programs in Previous Match"). *Residents must register with NRMP to participate in their subspecialty's match.* <http://www.nrmp.org/intro-fellowship-matches/>
- c) **ERAS:** Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS®) is the service that transmits fellowship applications and other supporting documents to program directors. Most fellowships utilizing NRMP use ERAS for transmission of documents. Fellowship documents are sent to ERAS via Fellowship Documents Office (EFDO), an online service exclusively for medical residents and fellows to support the centralized processing of fellowship application materials submitted via ERAS. Fellowship applicants request an electronic token to access the ERAS system. <https://www.erasfellowshipdocuments.org/>
- d) **FREIDA Online:** FREIDA is an AMA database with over 8,700 graduate medical education programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, as well as over 200 combined specialty programs. A search of their database will provide basic information on subspecialty programs and how to contact the particular program you are interested in. Applicants should individually contact ALL programs that they are interested in. <https://freida.ama-assn.org/Freida/user/viewProgramSearch.do>. This is an AMA website that requires a free log in. You do not have to join the AMA to view this website.
- e) **The Journal of Pediatrics, January issue:** List of available fellowships in pediatrics for the next year.
- f) **Individual Program Websites:** Though variable, many fellowship programs have websites which provide information about their program.

4. Which pediatric fellowships participate in the NRMP match process?

- a) Allergy/Immunology
- b) Pediatric Specialties Fall Match (PSFM): Subspecialties of developmental-behavioral pediatrics, pediatric critical care, child abuse, pediatric emergency medicine, pediatric endocrinology, pediatric gastroenterology, pediatric pulmonology, pediatric rheumatology, pediatric ID and pediatric nephrology
- c) Pediatric Specialties Spring Match (PSSM): Subspecialties of pediatric cardiology, pediatric hematology/oncology,
- d) Primary Care Sports Medicine
- e) Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
- f) Adolescent Medicine

5. What if I am interested in a fellowship program that does not participate in the NRMP?

Some specialties do not participate in an NRMP match. A search of FREIDA online will also allow you to determine whether or not a program participates in NRMP and additionally how to contact the individual program. See above items 3a and 3d for additional information.

General Pediatrics/Hospitalist Medicine: There is not a standardized match for general pediatrics fellowships. A current list of fellowships and contact information can be found through the Academic Pediatric Association website.

http://ambpeds.org/education/RC_generalPediatrics.cfm

6. How long are pediatric fellowships?

Most pediatric fellowships are 3 years, with the exception of Academic General Pediatric fellowships and Child Abuse fellowships (2 years).

7. How does a person become licensed to practice a pediatric subspecialty? Are there research requirements?

Please refer to attached document (available on the ABP website). www.abp.org

8. When do I need to apply for fellowship? When can I expect to interview?

Programs that utilize ERAS are following either a July or December application cycle. Beginning in mid July, fellowship applicants may apply to July application cycle specialties. Beginning in November, fellowship applicants may apply to December application cycle specialties.

See: <https://students-residents.aamc.org/training-residency-fellowship/applying-fellowships-eras/>

Assuming you intend to begin fellowship immediately after completing residency:

Fellowship	ERAS begins accepting applications	NRMP match opens	Interviews	Rank order list submission	Match Day
<i>Pediatric Specialty Fall Match</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B&D • Critical care • Emergency medicine • Endocrinology • Gastroenterology • Neonatology • Pulmonology • Rheumatology • Nephrology • ID • Child Abuse 	July PGY3 year	Aug PGY3 year	Aug-Oct PGY3 year	Nov PGY3 year	December PGY3 year
<i>PSSM</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiology • Heme Onc 	November PGY2 year	Feb PGY2 year	Jan-April PGY2 year	May PGY2 year	May PGY2 year
<i>Allergy</i>	July PGY3 year	August PGY3 year	Aug-Nov PGY3 year	November PGY3 year	December PGY3 year
<i>Adolescent</i>	July PGY3 year	August PGY3 year date	Aug-Nov PGY3 year	November PGY3 year	November PGY3 year
<i>Medical Genetics</i>	July PGY3 year	August PGY 3 year		October PGY 3 year	November PGY3 year
<i>General Pediatrics</i>	n/a	Variable; most programs encourage applying 6-12 months	Variable (often Oct-Dec of PGY3 year)	n/a	n/a

		<i>ahead of start date</i>			
--	--	--------------------------------	--	--	--

9. What are the usual components of a fellowship application?

- a) Completed application
- b) Personal Statement
- c) Copy of medical license
- d) Letters of Recommendation (often 3), +/- Program Director letter
- e) USMLE score reports (parts 1, 2 and 3)
- f) Curriculum vitae
- g) Copy of your MSPE/Dean's letter from medical school
- h) Copy of medical school diploma
- i) Photograph

10. What else should I consider as I begin thinking about applying to fellowship?

- a) **Away Rotations:** An away rotation will allow you to learn more about a particular program, as well as get to know key faculty in that program. You may take a maximum of four weeks of away time during your three years of residency. Please refer to the UCD Pediatrics Residency Away Rotation Policy.
- b) **Research:** Research experience during residency will allow you to pursue previously established interests, will improve your fellowship application, and will provide you with good background knowledge prior to beginning fellowship. The following are just some opportunities:
 - i. Resident CMN mentored research grants— Up to \$3000, of which \$1500 can be for presentation/publication costs. Submission deadline typically early December.
 - ii. AAP Resident Research Grants – Submission deadline typically in February. Up to \$2000 with additional \$1000 for travel to conference.
 - iii. UCD Pediatrics Poster Symposium – A portion of your Scholarly Project requirement. Held in the June of each year. Good opportunity to develop and present a poster.
 - iv. Case reports – a quick and relatively easy way to publish. Interesting cases are everywhere! If you don't know of any, speak to the chief residents about case management cases... they frequently involve novel presentations which may be publication worthy.
- c) **Mentorship:** A faculty mentor (usually in your desired field) will provide you with career advice and assist you with identifying research opportunities and identifying desirable fellowship programs. This person does not need to be your faculty advisor, and should be sought out as soon as possible during your residency training. Please refer to the list of faculty provided above if you are unsure of whom to contact.

11. In addition to a research elective, what electives should I take if I am interested in a particular subspecialty?

Desired Subspecialty:	Consider:
Behavior and Development	1) Neurology, 2) Genetics, 3) Psychiatry or PM&R
Child Abuse	1) Radiology, 2) Genetics, 3) Pediatric Surgery
Endocrinology	1) Genetics, 2) Nephrology/Urology, 3) Psychiatry
Genetics	1) Endocrinology, 2) Neurology, 3) Allergy/Immunology
Hospitalist Medicine	1) Kaiser Inpatient elective, 2) Transport, 3) GI
Infectious Diseases	1) Rheumatology, 2) Allergy, 3) Dermatology
Nephrology	1) Rheumatology, 2) ID, 3) Cardiology
Neonatal/Perinatal Medicine	1) Anesthesia; 2) Cardiology; 3) Developmental Pediatrics
Critical Care	1) Anesthesia; 2) Pediatric Cardiac ICU; 3) Cardiology

12. Tips: What do residents wish they had known prior to starting this process?

- a) **Start saving money!** Expenses add up, and residents wish they had begun putting aside money as a PGY1 to cover costs (application, flights, hotel rooms, etc).
- b) **Plan ahead!** It is helpful to do a rotation in your desired field early in your second year. This will allow you to establish with certainty that you wish to pursue fellowship in that field, and allow you time to get to know the attendings and secure letters of recommendation. Ask for letters of recommendation early – at least three months ahead of time.
- c) **Efficiency Measures:** The general fellowship application form through ERAS is the same as for residency applications. If you have a copy of your residency application, you may save some time.
- d) **Should I do an away rotation?** From one resident: “My away rotation made my application significantly stronger from comments I’ve heard on the interview trail, given the small HO community and respect among senior members of the community who offered a recommendation.”
- e) **How many interviews should you schedule?** This depends of your competitiveness, of course, but many recommend 5-6 interviews. In general, residents interview with fewer programs than they did for residency. One resident noted that she was surprised to not like programs in person that she thought highly of before, so it was helpful to have a few “backups.” Another resident noted “Think about a program and your interest very hard before scheduling an interview day. I applied to a lot of programs and wish I had held off on scheduling a few of the ones that I wasn’t as excited about. I heard back from some

programs I really liked later and had already sort of maxed out my requested # days off/booked flights/confirmed interviews at that point.”

- f) **Scheduling interviews:** Scheduling interviews can be difficult, especially given that interviews in the Midwest and on the East Coast will require 2 consecutive days off. Days off can affect your education and your colleagues’ schedules. Everyone agrees – it is best to have vacation time to use for fellowship interviews! ***Prior to making your vacation and schedule requests, please consider when your specific fellowship may be conducting interviews.*** Please refer to the residency LOA and Missed Rotation Days Policies for guidelines about taking time off to interview.

Some ideas:

- i. Find out early when your desired programs plan to interview. Some programs offer only limited, specific dates; others are quite flexible.
 - ii. It is helpful to look up when the AAP and PAS meetings are scheduled – you may wish to avoid those dates because key faculty are likely away.
 - iii. “Having some vacation time [during interview season] was key for me being able to interview on both coasts. I would also suggest requesting an elective during those months as well, so that you do not end up on an inpatient rotation where you would have to jeopardize someone to go to an interview. Having ED during that time may be helpful also, as you at least get a one or two weekdays off during your stretch of daytime shifts in which you could potentially schedule an interview without having to miss a day, but you would have to coordinate that with the ED chief also. If Kaiser continues to allow us to make up a few missed weekdays on the weekends, then it would be helpful to have that in the spring also.” -- Again, refer to the LOA and Missed Rotation Days Policies.
- g) **Practice before you interview:** From one resident: “I did a mock interview with a mentor about why I wanted to go into the field, to stimulate thought about the difficult questions and to help with focus. I can’t explain how extremely important it has been in interviews given that my interest in the subspecialty is very broad.”