

# Resident Experiences in Congenital Cardiothoracic Surgery

The purpose of this research study is to identify exposure to and experience with congenital cardiothoracic surgery among current residents in cardiothoracic surgery programs. Resident members of the Thoracic Surgery Residency Association are being recruited to complete this short survey on the topic. This 5-minute survey will inquire about background/demographic information, exposure to congenital procedures during training, and experiences associated with congenital cardiothoracic surgery during residency. There are no foreseeable risks or benefits to this study, and compensation will not be provided. No personally identifiable information is captured or linked in the survey, and the results reported in aggregate will be kept confidential. Your participation is voluntary and much appreciated. For any questions or troubles with the survey platform, please contact the Co-PI: Garrett Coyan, MD, MS; [coyangn@upmc.edu](mailto:coyangn@upmc.edu).

\* Required

What is your gender? \*

- Female
- Male
- Other:



What is your post-graduate training year? \*

- PGY 1
- PGY 2
- PGY 3
- PGY 4
- PGY 5
- PGY 6
- PGY 7
- PGY 8
- PGY 9+

Identify your thoracic surgery program type: \*

- Traditional 2 year thoracic surgery program
- Traditional 3 year thoracic surgery program
- Integrated 6 year thoracic surgery program
- 4+3 combined general surgery/thoracic surgery program
- Other:



Select your program track: \*

Select your program track:

- Thoracic
- Cardiothoracic

Do you currently intend to pursue a career in congenital cardiothoracic surgery?

\*

- Yes
- No

Have you ever been interested in a career in congenital cardiothoracic surgery at any time? \*

- Yes
- No

When was your first exposure to the field of congenital cardiothoracic surgery? \*

- Prior to undergraduate/college education
- During undergraduate/college education
- During medical school
- During general surgery residency
- During cardiothoracic surgery residency

Have you conducted research projects in the field of congenital cardiothoracic surgery? \*



Yes

No

Do you feel you could easily access a mentor in congenital cardiothoracic surgery if you wanted to obtain one? \*

Yes

No

Maybe

At what point in your thoracic surgery residency training is your first formal congenital cardiothoracic surgery rotation? \*

Traditional Year 1

Traditional Year 2

Traditional Year 3

Integrated Year 1

Integrated Year 2

Integrated Year 3

Integrated Year 4

Integrated Year 5

Integrated Year 6

4+3 CT year 1

4+3 CT year 2

4+3 CT year 3



Other:

How many months of congenital cardiothoracic surgery rotations are built in to your residency program schedule? \*

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6+

Where is your core congenital cardiothoracic surgery experience obtained? \*

- Within the core residency program's congenital cardiothoracic surgery program (own institution)
- A partnering congenital cardiothoracic surgery program (outside the primary residency program's institution)
- Other:

Does your program allow you spend additional (extra) months as an elective on a congenital cardiothoracic surgery rotation if you are interested in doing so? \*

- Yes
- No



If you have completed a congenital cardiothoracic surgery rotation, please check below the cases you scrubbed in as an assistant:

- Patent ductus arteriosus
- Atrial septal defect <18 years of age
- Atrial septal defect >18 years of age
- Ventricular septal defect >18 years of age
- Ventricular septal defect < 18 years of age
- Transposition of the great arteries
- Tetralogy of Fallot
- AV Canal
- Stage I single ventricle repair (Norwood)
- Stage II single ventricle repair (Glenn/hemifontan)
- Stage III single ventricle repair (Fontan procedure)
- PA Banding
- Shunt creation
- Neonatal/pediatric ECMO
- Vascular Ring/Sling
- Tracheal resection/reconstruction
- Heart Transplant
- Pulmonary Valve Replacement < 18 years of age
- Pulmonary Valve Replacement > 18 years of age
- Partial Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return



If you have completed a congenital cardiothoracic surgery rotation, please check below the cases you logged as index cases as primary surgeon:

- Patent ductus arteriosus
- Atrial septal defect <18 years of age
- Atrial septal defect >18 years of age
- Ventricular septal defect >18 years of age
- Ventricular septal defect < 18 years of age
- Tetralogy of Fallot
- Stage II single ventricle repair (Glenn/hemifontan)
- Stage III single ventricle repair (Fontan procedure)
- PA Banding
- Shunt creation
- Neonatal/pediatric ECMO
- Vascular Ring/Sling
- Heart Transplant
- Pulmonary Valve Replacement < 18 years of age
- Pulmonary Valve Replacement > 18 years of age
- Partial Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return

If you have completed a congenital cardiothoracic surgery rotation, rate the level of involvement in the procedures you logged as primary surgeon compared to the cases you log on an adult cardiac or thoracic service:



1   2   3   4   5

Much lower level of involvement                  Much greater level of involvement

With the congenital cardiothoracic surgery experience built into your residency program, rate how well you believe you will be prepared for congenital questions on the American Board of Thoracic Surgery written (qualifying) and oral (certifying) examinations: \*

1   2   3   4   5

Not well prepared                  Very well prepared

Do you believe congenital cardiothoracic surgery exposure should continue to be a required part of standard cardiothoracic surgery training? \*

- Yes
- No

How long should you ideally spend on congenital cardiothoracic surgery programs during your residency training?

- 0 months
- 1 month
- 2 months
- 3 months
- 4 months
- 5 months





6+ months

What could be done to improve your current experience with congenital cardiothoracic surgery during residency?

Your answer

If you have decided to pursue a career in congenital cardiothoracic surgery, please select any of the following factors that influenced your decision:

- Mentorship
- Lifestyle
- Research Interests
- Broad range of pathology treated
- Technical nature/challenge of procedures
- Patient population treated
- Other:

If you have decided not to currently pursue a career in congenital cardiothoracic surgery, please select any of the following factors that influenced your decision:

- Lack of Mentorship
- Lifestyle
- Lack of Research Interests
- Length of Additional Training



- Lack of consistent job availability
- Patient population treated
- Technical nature/challenge of procedures
- Other:

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