

# CAST

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The Committee on Advanced Subspecialty Training

## ARANS at SNS Annual Meeting

New York, NY

Friday, May 17, 2024

Charles Branch, MD

Vincent Traynelis, MD



THE SOCIETY OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

# ARANS at SNS Annual Meeting

May 16, 2024

Welcome and introduction

Membership and terms

CAST administration

Accreditation report

Application fees

Review of 2023 changes

Subspecialty updates

2024 departing members

2024 new members

2025 departing members

Website review

CAST dates to remember 2024 & 2025

Q & A



# 2024 CAST MEMBERS

2-year term, renewable 1 time for a total of 4 years

Charles Branch (Chair, 2022)	2022	
Vincent Traynelis (Chair Elect)	2022	
William Mack (Chair, NESAC)	2022	CNS Endovascular
Perry Ball (Chair, NCTAC)	2019	Neurocritical Care, Neurotrauma
Brian Hoh	2022	Cerebrovascular
Jonathan Miller	2021	Stereotactic & Functional
Michael Steinmetz	2022	Spine, Peripheral Nerve
Linda Liau	2018	Neurosurgical Oncology, Skull Base
<i>Jeff Weinberg</i>	2024	<i>Neurosurgical Oncology</i>
<i>John Golfinos</i>	2024	<i>Skull Base</i>
David Limbrick	2024	Pediatrics

ABNS Russell Lonser (*Ex officio*)  
RC – Robert Harbaugh (*Ex officio*)  
*Richard Ellenbogen*

ACGME – Kristen Ward Hirsch      SNS/ACGME



# CAST Membership

Terms follow the academic year, beginning in July and ending in June

Name	Institution	Specialty	1 <sup>st</sup> Term Start	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term Start	Term End Date
Charles Branch, MD Chair (Secretary/Treasurer since 2018)	Wake Forest	NA	2011	2014	2024
Vincent Traynelis, MD Chair Elect	Rush University	NA	2018	2021	2026
William (Bill) Mack, MD (NESAC Chair since 2022)	USC	CNS Endovascular	2022	2024	2026
Perry Ball, MD (NCTAC Chair since 2020)	Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center	Neurocritical Care	2019	2022	2025
Brian Hoh, MD	University of Florida	Cerebrovascular	2022	2024	2026
Jonathan Miller, MD	SUNY Upstate	Stereotactic & Functional	2021	2024	2026
Linda Liau, MD (John Golfinos, MD) (Jeff Weinberg, MD)	UCLA (NYU) (MD Anderson)	Neurosurgical Oncology and Skull Base (Skull Base) (Neurosurgical Oncology)	2018 (2024) (2024)	2021 (2026) (2026)	2024 (2028) (2028)
David Limbrick, MD	Virginia Commonwealth	Pediatrics	2024	2026	
Michael Steinmetz, MD	Cleveland Clinic	Spine and Peripheral Nerve	2022	2024	2026
Russell Lonser, MD (ABNS Secretary)	The Ohio State University	Ex Officio			
Robert Harbaugh, MD (RRC)	Penn State	Ex Officio	THE SOCIETY OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS		
Kristen Ward Hirsch (ACGME Director)		SNS/ACGME			

# NESAC Membership

Terms follow the academic year, beginning in July and ending in June

Name	Institution	Specialty	1 <sup>st</sup> Term Start	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term Start	Term End Date
Johanna Fifi, MD	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	SVIN	2019	2022	2025
William (Bill) Mack, MD (Chair)	USC	JSCVS	2021	2024	2026
Adam Arthur, MD	University of Tennessee	JSCVS	2019	2022	2024
Ameer Hassan, MD	UT Rio Grande Valley	SVIN	2021	2024	2026
Jeremy Heit, MD	Stanford University	SNIS	2023	2025	2027
Sameer Ansari, MD	Northwestern	SNIS	2019	2022	2024
Dr. Stavropoula Tjoumakaris	Thomas Jefferson University	JSCVS	2022	2024	2026
Dr. Raul Nogueira	UPMC	SVIN	2022	2024	2026
Dr. Ansaar Rai	West Virginia University	SNIS	2022	2024	2026
Charles Branch, MD (Chair)	Wake Forest School of Medicine	SIT WITH as CAST leadership			
Vincent Traynelis, MD (Chair Elect)	Rush University	SIT WITH as CAST leadership	SURGEONSTHE SOCIETY OF NEUROLOGICAL		

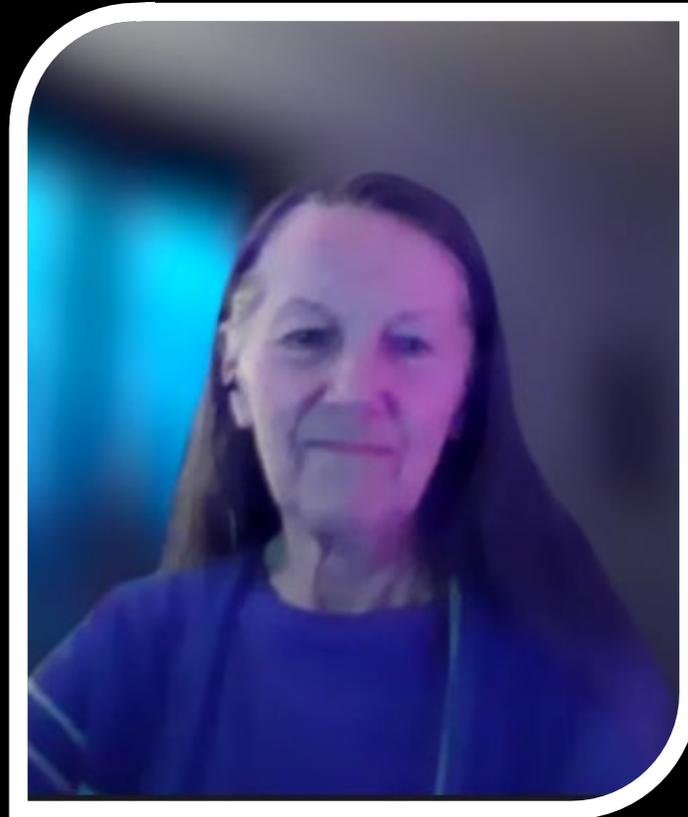
# NCTAC Membership

Terms follow the academic year, beginning in July and ending in June

Name	Institution	Specialty	1 <sup>st</sup> Term Start	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term Start	Term End Date
Perry Ball, MD (Chair since 2020)	Dartmouth-Hitchcock	Neurosurgery: SNS	2019	2022	2025
Ben Rodgers, MD	Goodman Campbell	Neurosurgery: SNS	2019	2022	2025
Alan Hoffer, MD	Case Western	Neurosurgery: AANS/CNS on NT & CC	2019	2022	2025
Lori Shutter, MD	UPMC	Neurocritical Care: NCS	2019	2022	2024
Jamie Ullman, MD	Northwell Health	Neurosurgery: AANS/CNS on NT & CC	2019	2022	2025
Cheryl Chang, MD	Duke University	Neurology: NCS	2019	2022	2025
David Okonkwo, MD	UPMC	Neurosurgery: Chair and Liaison to UCNS/NCS ACGME committee	2019	2022	2024
Will Hazard, MD	Penn State	Anesthesiology	2022	2024	2026
Angela Shapshak	University of Alabama	Neurology: NCS	2022	2024	2026
Charles Branch, MD (Chair)	Wake Forest School of Medicine	SIT WITH CAST LEADERSHIP			
Vincent Traynelis, MD (Chair Elect)	Rush University	SIT WITH CAST LEADERSHIP			



# Administration



**Dr. Pam Derstine**  
Administrator

**Leann Lepa**  
Administrator  
Employee of ABNS

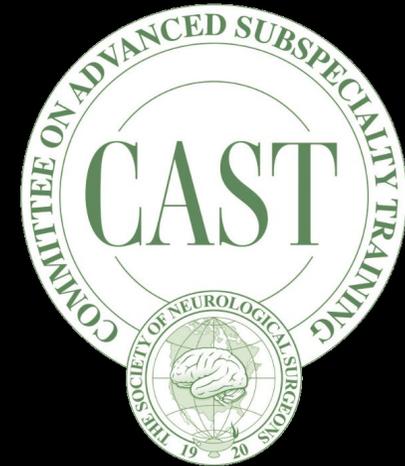


# CAST Accreditation of Programs as of May 1, 2024

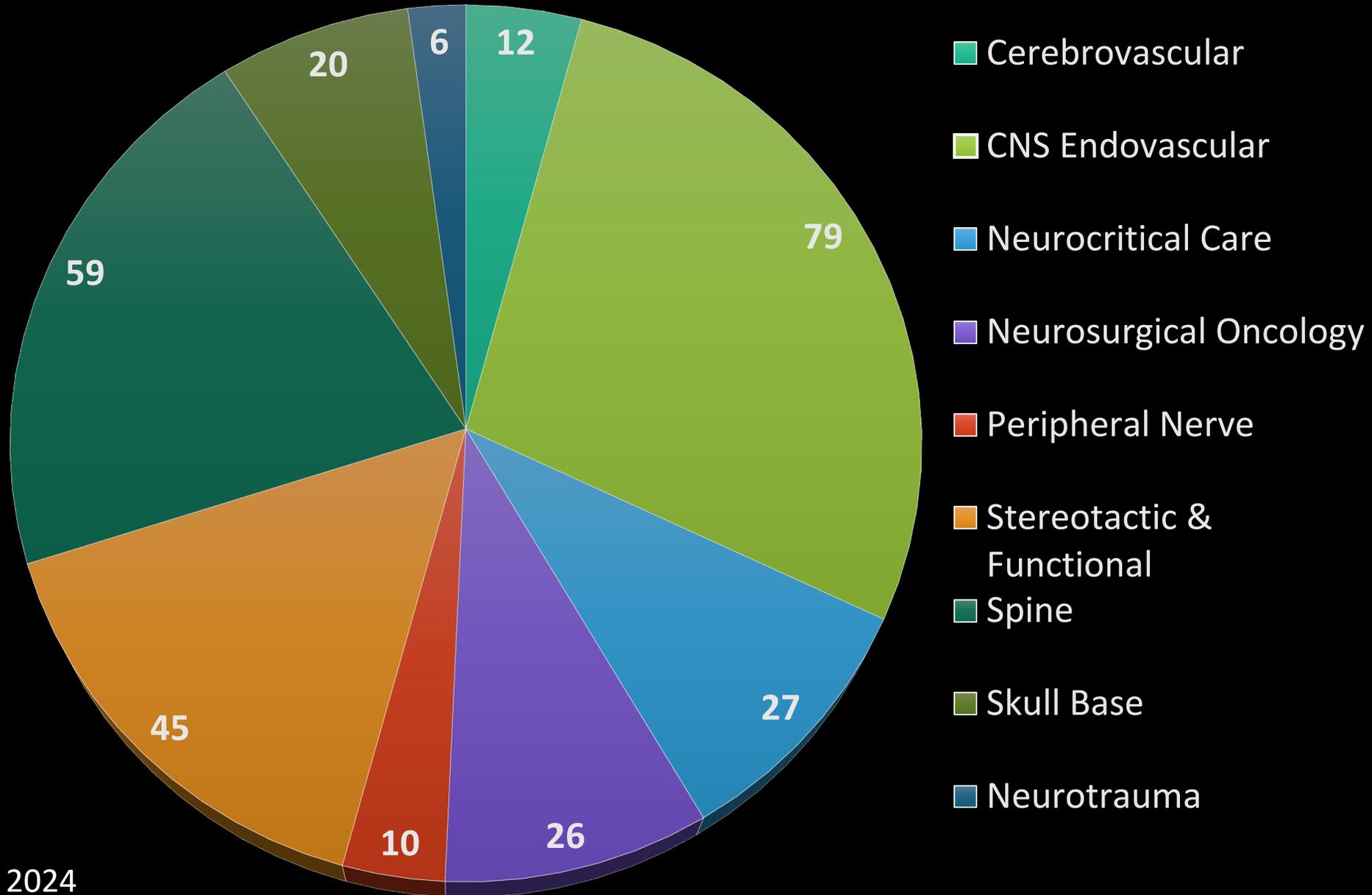
<b>Programs</b>	<b>Approved</b>
Cerebrovascular	12
Endovascular	79
Neurocritical Care	27
Neurotrauma	6
Neurosurgical Oncology	26
Peripheral Nerve	10
Stereotactic/Functional	45
Spine	59
Skull Base	20
Pediatric	33

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**TOTAL 317**



# CAST Subspecialty Numbers (non-Peds)



As of May 1, 2024

# CAST Financial

## CAST Application Fees

	Current	Previous
New Application	\$2500	\$2500
Renewal Application	N/A	\$1250
Annual Report Application	\$600	\$250
PD Change Application	\$0	\$0
Complement/Site Change	\$0	\$1250



# ARANS at SNS Annual Meeting

May 17, 2024

Review

## Review of 2023 changes

- Fall new application cycle was discontinued
- 5-year renewal applications no longer be required
- Yearly Annual Report will offer continuous accreditation
- Annual report application was updated allowing for complement and site changes
- Program Director application was updated



# ARANS at SNS Annual Meeting

May 17, 2024

Subspecialty Updates

## CNS Endovascular

- New requirement this year is verification of preliminary year cases
  - Required in 2025 annual report that reviews 2024/25 academic year
  - Graduating program will be responsible for obtaining and submitting prerequisite year numbers
    - If the fellow's prerequisite year was at another program, a letter is needed from that Residency Program Director attesting to the completion of those 200 diagnostic angiograms (cerebral/spinal).
- New name! Changing from CNS Endovascular to Neuroendovascular
- Minimum case requirements are being updated to take place in 2025



# ARANS at SNS Annual Meeting

May 17, 2024

Subspecialty Updates

*CNS Endovascular cont...*

- Match update
  - Sponsored by SNIS and run by NMRP
  - First match will be in 2026 for 2027-2028 academic year
  - All CAST CNS Endovascular programs are required to participate in the match
  - If you are taking your own enrolled fellow, you don't have to participate in the match that year
  - Any exceptions to participating in any year's match will be determined by the SNIS
- Chair update
  - Dr. Bill Mack will be moving into the CAST Chair Elect position
  - Dr. Ansaar Rai will move into the NESAC Chair position



# ARANS at SNS Annual Meeting

May 17, 2024

Subspecialty Updates

*CNS Endovascular cont...*

CNS Endovascular Fellowship Program Directors must have a CAST Certificate or Recognition of Focus Practice (RFP) subspecialty credential.

Effective July 1, 2027, all Fellowship Program Directors for CNS Endovascular fellowships must have of Recognition Focused Practice (RFP) issued by the ABNS.

**CAST Certificates will not work after that date.**

Those with CAST Certificates will need to go through the RFP application process with the ABNS which will include taking the exam (offered twice per year).



# ARANS at SNS Annual Meeting

## May 17, 2024

### Subspecialty Updates

#### Neurocritical Care

- Rotation requirements in place for 2024
  - Starting the 2024-2025 academic year, fellowship 12-month experience must include rotations in other ICUs other than the Neuro ICU and be described in detail in the block diagram and fellow schedule in the yearly annual report. Rotations must include
    - Minimum of 6 months of Neuro ICU rotation
    - Minimum of 3 months of non-Neuro ICU rotations (Trauma ICU, Surgical ICU, Medical ICU, Cardiac ICU, etc.)
    - Remaining 3 months can be used for research, electives (Anesthesia, Neurodiagnostics) or additional ICU time
- Site distances
  - Participating sites within a NCC fellowship must be within 50 miles of each other to ensure the fellow is given the best educational experience supported by their Fellowship Program Director *and* Core Faculty.



# ARANS at SNS Annual Meeting

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Subspecialty Updates

*Neurocritical Care cont...*

Effective July 1, 2027, CAST Certificates will no longer be accepted as a NCC subspecialty credential for a neurosurgeon that is the Fellowship Program Director or Core Faculty. FPDs with CAST Certificates must have the Recognition of Focused Practice (RFP) credential issued by the ABNS, or an equivalent credential.

NON-neurosurgical FPDs with CAST Certificates will need an equivalent credential (UCNS, ABPN, etc.) by July 1, 2027

Fellowships that have a non-neurosurgeon as the FPD also need a neurosurgeon as core faculty. That neurosurgeon must have, at a minimum, passed the RFP exam.



# ARANS at SNS Annual Meeting

May 17, 2024

Subspecialty Updates

## Neurosurgical Oncology

- New minimum case requirements in place for 2024
- Dr. Jeff Weinberg to replace Dr. Linda Liau in 2024
- First match will be in 2025 via the AANS/CNS Joint Tumor Section

## Skull Base

- Dr. John Golfinos to replace Dr. Linda Liau in 2024
- New institutional minimum case requirements are in place
- First match happened in last year via the North American Skull Base Society, will have match again this year

## Cerebrovascular

- New minimum case requirements in place for 2024



# ARANS at SNS Annual Meeting

## May 17, 2024

### Subspecialty Updates

#### Peripheral Nerve

- Minimum case requirements were updated in 2023

#### Spine

- No changes to minimum case requirements but ongoing discussion of total institutional cases and resident complement
- Task Force established to discuss and develop Match
- Code consolidation effort initiated to simplify case submission process

#### Stereotactic/Functional

- Minimum case requirements were updated fall 2022



# ARANS at SNS Annual Meeting

## May 17, 2024

### Committee Member Updates

#### NESAC departing members in 2024

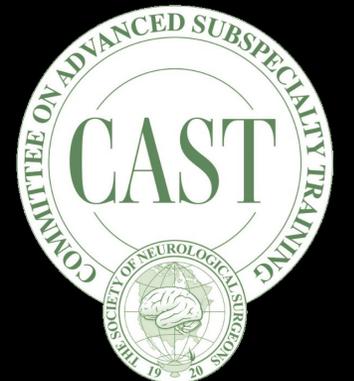
- Dr. Adam Arthur (Neurosurgery, JSVS)
- Dr. Sameer Ansari (Radiology, SNIS)
- Dr. William Mack (Chair Elect)

#### NCTAC departing members in 2024

- Dr. Lori Shutter (NCS)
- Dr. David Okonkwo (UCNS/NCS)

#### CAST departing members in 2024

- Dr. Linda Liau (Neurosurgical Oncology, Skull Base)
- Dr. Douglas Brockmeyer (Pediatrics)
- Dr. Charles Branch (Chair)



# ARANS at SNS Annual Meeting

## May 17, 2024

### Committee Member Updates

#### CAST new members in 2024

- Dr. John Golfinos - Skull Base
- Dr. Jeff Weinberg – Neurosurgical Oncology
- Dr. David Limbrick- Pediatrics
- **Dr. Brian Howard – NESAC**
- **Dr. Justin Mascitelli – NESAC**
- **Dr. David Greer – NCTAC**
- **Dr. Patty Raksin – NCTAC**
  - Pending SNS Exec and CAST Ratification

#### Leadership Updates

- CAST Chair: Dr. Vincent Traynelis
- CAST Chair Elect: Dr. William Mack
- NESAC Chair: Dr. Ansaar Rai



# ARANS at SNS Annual Meeting

## May 17, 2024

### 2025 Committee Updates

#### NESAC departing members in 2025

- Dr. Johanna Fifi (Neurology, SVIN)

#### CAST departing members in 2025

- Dr. Perry Ball (NCTAC Chair)

#### NCTAC departing members in 2025

- Dr. Perry Ball (Chair) (Neurosurgery, SNS)
- Dr. Ben Rodgers (Neurosurgery, SNS)
- Dr. Alan Hoffer (Neurosurgery, AANS/CNS)
- Dr. Jamie Ullman (Neurosurgery, AANS/CNS)
- Dr. Cheryl Chang (Neurology, NCS)



# CAST Updates and Changes

## Website



**CAST:**  
The Committee on Advanced Subspecialty Training

Programs Applications About Us Requirements Convert your CAST Certificate to RFP FAQs

The Committee on Advanced Sub-specialty Training (CAST) functions under and is responsible for the Council of The Society of Neurological Surgeons. CAST is responsible for accreditation of sub-specialty training fellowships and for the development and updating of sub-specialty training requirements.

[About Us](#)

Committee Structure History Charter CAST Fellowship Programs Fellowship Program Requirements

[Click here to let CAST know that the Coordinator has changed](#)

**CAST Sp...**

CAST has historically had two appli changes. However, that is changing

The Spring Cycle will be available fo

The Spring Cycle remains opens Jar

The Fall Cycle that previously went year renewal applications will no lo year Annual Report. As long as yd year. If your Annual Report has ser be submitted during the following

Complement changes and site cha longer be required for those.



**CAST:**  
The Committee on Advanced Subspecialty Training

Programs Applications About Us Requirements Convert your CAST Certificate to RFP FAQs

### FAQs, Updates, & Useful Information For Programs

About Us Charter History Society of Neurological Surgery

#### Updates For All Subspecialties

##### CPT Codes and Case Logs

Ensure you aren't using CPT codes for case numbers to ensure an accurate case log submission in new or Annual Report applications.

##### There is no "CAST Certification"

Fellows that graduate from a CAST Accredited fellowship are able to receive a diploma or letter from their program. CAST fellowship graduates are not "CAST Certified." Programs are welcome to use the CAST logo in the design/format of their document, choosing for what they want to give to their graduating fellows.

#### Subspecialty Specific Updates

##### CNS Endovascular

What is a program complement?

### CAST Accredited Fellowship Annual Case Report Form INSTITUTIONAL CNS Endovascular

Please complete this form when submitting a CAST Fellowship Program annual report. The report should include each institutional case that would have been available to the fellows for each participating site for the most recently completed fellowship year. Each operative experience should generate one case in one category (do not sort or classify using CPT codes). Include all cases done within the training program, even though some might not have had resident/fellow participation. Report in whole numbers.

Report the number of cases performed for the entire fellowship program at each participating site. Sites have already been defined in accreditation application

	Site # 1	Site # 2	Site # 3	Site # 4	Site # 5
Aneurysms (min. 40)					
Ruptured aneurysms (min. 10)					
Intracranial embolization (AVM, AVF, Tumor) (min. 20)					
Intracranial or extracranial stent placement or angioplasty (non-aneurysmal) (min. 20)					
Acute ischemic stroke treatments (min. 40)					
Head and neck embolization (min. 15)					
Spinal angiograms and/or embolization (min. 5)					
<b>Totals by site</b>					
<b>Institutional total</b>					

In what way were numbers obtained:

### CAST Annual Report Form For Graduated Fellow FELLOW #1 CNS Endovascular

Please complete this form when submitting a CAST Annual Report for Fellowship Program. The report should include each institutional case for the participating fellow for the most recently completed fellowship year. Each operative experience should generate one case in one category in the grid below unless the same operative experience has been recorded on another fellows' case log.

For example: two CAST fellows scrub in for same case on March 12, only one fellow can include this operative experience on the case log. Do not sort or classify by CPT codes.

Name of graduating fellow	Site # 1	Site # 2	Site # 3	Site # 4	Site # 5
Case/Procedure Type					
Aneurysms (min. 40)					
Ruptured aneurysms (min. 10)					
Intracranial embolization (AVM, AVF, Tumor) (min. 20)					
Intracranial or extracranial stent placements or angioplasty (non-aneurysmal) (min. 20)					
Acute ischemic stroke treatments (min. 40)					
Head and neck embolization (min. 15)					
Spinal angiograms and/or embolization (min. 5)					
<b>Totals by site</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Fellow #1 total</b>			0		

In what way were numbers obtained:



### CAST PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP EDUCATION IN CEREBROVASCULAR NEUROSURGERY

#### INTRODUCTION

##### Eligibility

Fellowship programs which exist within a structure of an ACGME accredited residency in neurologic surgery may apply for accreditation through the Committee on Accreditation of Subspecialty Training of The Society of Neurological Surgeons.

##### Definition and Scope of the Subspecialty

Cerebrovascular neurosurgery (CVNS) is that subspecialty of neurosurgery that deals with the evaluation and medical and surgical treatment of diseases of the vasculature of the brain and spinal cord.

##### Duration of Training

##### Post-graduate fellowships:

Prior to beginning a CAST-accredited neurological surgery subspecialty fellowship, each fellow candidate will generally have satisfactorily completed an ACGME accredited residency training program in neurologic surgery.

##### Entitled fellowships:

- If a candidate is pursuing an entitled CAST-accredited fellowship during their residency, that fellowship training should occur at the appropriate senior level of residency allowable as valid by the corresponding Joint Section(s) together with CAST.
- Prior to beginning their fellowship, the resident participant must already have a broad exposure to the full spectrum of neurosurgery with sufficient senior level clinical experience to warrant a focused experience to build upon his/her already acquired skills. It is anticipated that any fellow should already have both the technical expertise and intellectual maturity to understand and apply the material available in subspecialty training (Milestone Level 4). With that specific goal in mind, the term "senior level" has been defined by the SNS so as to occur after the successful completion of the Chief Resident year.
- Recognizing that these guidelines and definitions are more restrictive than previously utilized by some programs and subspecialties, they will not go into effect until the beginning of the academic year July 2019.
- Going forward thereafter, the "senior resident level" requirement for participation in all entitled CAST accredited fellowships (other than neurocritical care and neuroendovascular surgery) will be after the completion of their Chief Resident year, ideally during PGY7 and certainly not before PGY6.
- All new and renewal CAST-accredited fellowship applications approved during the coming year and thereafter will be obligated to comply with these guidelines and adhere to the new annual updates of the fellowship program along with specific training details of each individual graduating fellow completing that program.
- It is anticipated that the standard length of fellowships will be of twelve (12) months duration (particularly for spine, pediatrics and cerebrovascular); a six-month fellowship in those disciplines would be the exception.

Case logs, requirements, & updates all available on the CAST website

# IMPORTANT CAST DATES 2024

	Application Opens	Application Closes	Review Deadline	Meetings
January	Spring Cycle Application Open: Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>			
February		Spring Cycle Application Closed: February 28 <sup>th</sup>		
March			Spring Application Reviews Due: end of March (TBD)	
April				NCTAC Spring Meeting: April 16, 2-24 NESAC Spring Meeting: April 18, 2024 CAST Spring Meeting: April 30, 2024
May				AANS Meeting: May 3 – 6, Chicago ABNS Oral Board Exam: May 10-12, 2024 Neurocritical Care RFP Exam: May 17, 2024 CNS Endovascular RFP Exam: May 17, 2024 Pediatric RFP Exam: May 17, 2024 SNS Meeting: May 17-19, 2024, New York
June	Annual Report Cycle Open: June 1 <sup>st</sup>			
July		Annual Report Cycle Closed: July 31 <sup>st</sup>		
August			Annual Report Reviews Due: late mid to late September (TBD)	
September				NCTAC / NESAC / CAST Annual Report Meetings: end of September/early October
October				CNS Meeting: Sept. 28 - Oct, 2, Washington D.C. Academy Meeting: Oct. 16-19, Hall Moon Bay, CA
November				ABNS Oral Board Exam: Oct. 25-26, 2024
December				CNS Endovascular RFP Exam: Dec. 6, 2024

# IMPORTANT CAST DATES 2025

	Application Opens	Application Closes	Review Deadline	Meetings
January	Spring Cycle Application Open: Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>			
February		Spring Cycle Application Closed: February 28 <sup>th</sup>		
March			Spring Application Reviews Due: end of March (TBD)	
April				NCTAC / NESAC / CAST Spring Meetings: End of April/Beg of May AANS Meeting: April 25 – 28, 2025, Boston
May				ABNS Oral Board Exam: May 2-3, 2025 Neurocritical Care RFP Exam: May 9, 2025 CNS Endovascular RFP Exam: May 9, 2025 SNS Meeting: May 16-18, 2025, Cleveland
June	Annual Report Cycle Open: June 1 <sup>st</sup>			
July		Annual Report Cycle Closed: July 31 <sup>st</sup>		
August			Annual Report Reviews Due: late mid to late September (TBD)	
September				NCTAC / NESAC / CAST Annual Report Meetings: end of September/early October
October				CNS Meeting: Oct. 11-15,, Los Angeles Academy Meeting, Oct. 22-25, 2025, Greece
November				ABNS Oral Board Exam: Nov. 7-8, 2025
December				CNS Endovascular RFP Exam: Dec. 5, 2025

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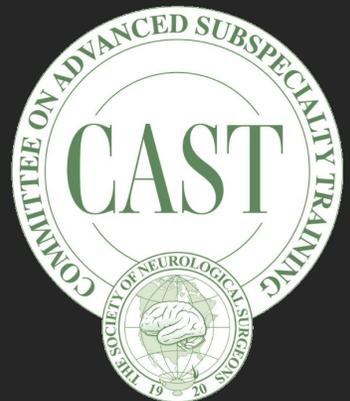
### Q & A

Q: Do we submit a Fellowship Program Director change application within the annual report?

A: No, the FPD change application should be submitted as soon as you know about the change or when the change occurs. It is a separate application from the yearly annual report.

Q: Is CAST considering supporting away rotation/travel during the fellowship? If a fellow is meeting all case minimums almost halfway through the year, why not support their education and let them see other approaches/procedures that are not typically seen at the home institution?

A: CAST does not support travel to other institutions not listed as an approved site in a previous application or annual report.



# ARANS at SNS Annual Meeting

## May 17, 2024

### Q & A

Q: Will CAST consider lowering the # of required IR procedures in the two following categories as it seems like our program is not the only program struggling to reach the minimums, such as Intracranial embolization (AVM, AVF, Tumor) (20 min) and Head and neck embolization (15 min)

A: NESAC is currently working on updating minimum case requirements that will go into affect in 2025

Q: Do case numbers have to be exact that are submitted into the applications?

A: Yes they must be exact case numbers. If case numbers submitted appear to be estimated or rounded, that is a red flag and should be avoided.



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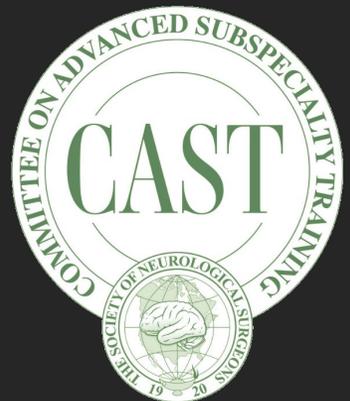
### Q & A

Q: According to recent meeting information, Endovascular will go into match starting in 2025. Are all CAST fellowships on board with the match? If not, when should the residents start applying for the non-matching program?

A: The match for Endovascular will be in 2026 for the 2027-2028 academic year

Q: What is the timeline for other specialties to do match like Spine, Peds, etc.?

A: Pediatrics already has a match in place and is managed by ACPNF. Skull Base had its first match last year, and planning another this year. Neurosurgical Oncology is planning on their first match next year. All sections and societies will decide their own match timeline and processes.



# ARANS at SNS Annual Meeting

## May 17, 2024

Q & A

Q: When do programs get application results?

A: We do our best to send new application results in the spring by the end of May. For annual report results, we aim to send results by the end of the year.



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Q & A

Any other questions?

