

CAST

The Committee on Advanced Subspecialty Training

ARANS Meeting

Friday, May 19, 2023

Dallas, TX

Charles Branch, MD

Vincent Traynelis, MD



ARANS Meeting Agenda

May 19, 2023

- Welcome and Introduction
- Membership and terms
- CAST Support Staff
- CAST Accreditation of Programs
- Website Updates
- General Updates
- Annual Report Updates
- Subspecialty Updates
- Match Proposal
- 2023/2024 Application Cycle Timeline
- Q & A from Programs



CAST Membership

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

Name	Institution	Specialty	1 st Term Start	2 nd Term Start	Term End Date
Charles Branch, MD Chair (Secretary/Treasurer since 2018)	Wake Forest School of Medicine	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	University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center	Stereotactic & Functional	2021	2024	2026
Linda Liau, MD	UCLA	Neurosurgical Oncology and Skull Base	2018	2021	2024
Douglas Brockmeyer, MD	University of Utah	Pediatrics	2022	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			
Corey Parker (ACGME Director)		SNS/ACGME			

NESAC Membership

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

Name	Institution	Specialty	1 st Term Start	2 nd 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	JSVS	2019	2022	2024
Ameer Hassan, MD	UT Rio Grande Valley	SVIN	2021	2024	2026
Lee Pride, MD	University of Texas, Southwestern	SNIS	2019	2020	2023
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			

NCTAC Membership

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

Name	Institution	Specialty	1 st Term Start	2 nd Term Start	Term End Date
Perry Ball, MD (NCCTAC Chair since 2020)	Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center	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			

CAST Administration

Betsy Koehnen

Administrative Liaison for CAST

Dr. Pam Derstine

Administrative Support

Leann Lepa

CAST Coordinator

Employee of ABNS



CAST Accreditation of Programs

(as of May 8, 2023)

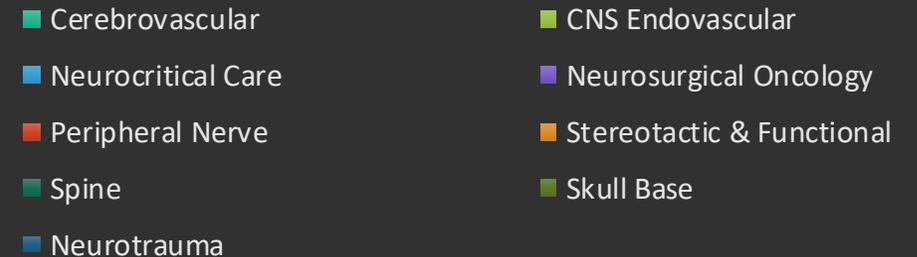
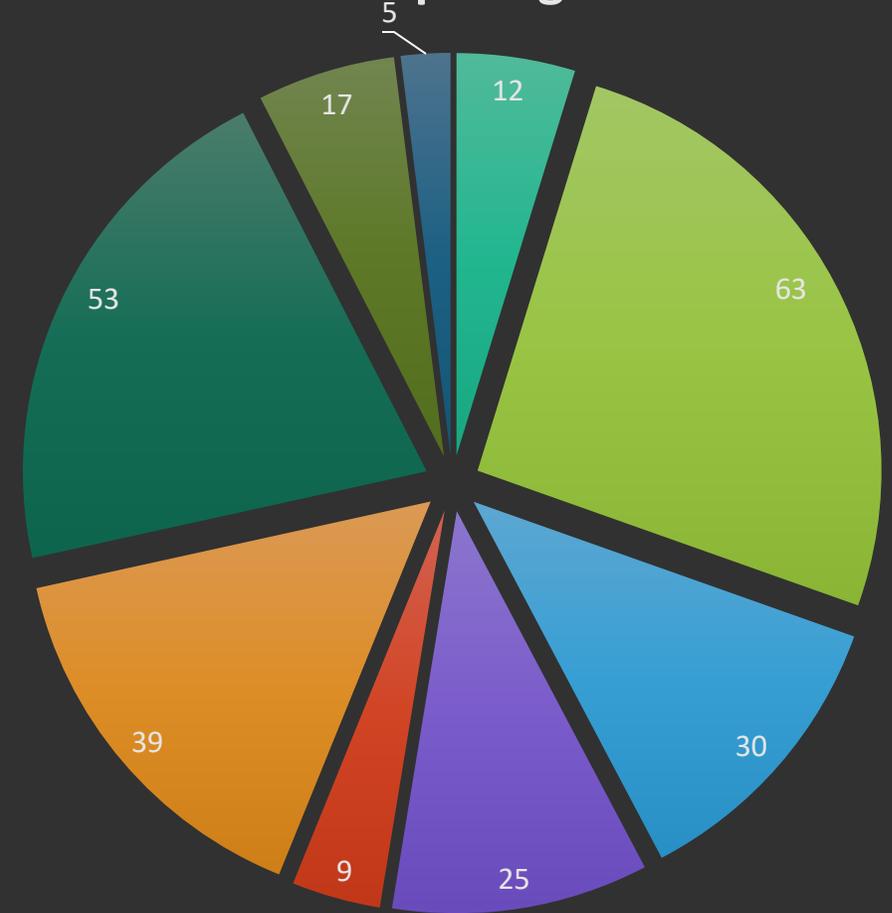
Total Fellowship Programs: 257

Programs

Approved

Cerebrovascular	12
Endovascular	65
Neurocritical Care	30
Neurotrauma	5
Neurosurgical Oncology	26
Peripheral Nerve	9
Stereotactic/Functional	39
Spine	53
Skull Base	18
Pediatric	33

TOTAL 290



CAST Updates and Changes

Website Updates



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 Fellowship Program Coordinator has changed](#) [Click here to submit Program Director change request](#)

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.

When my fellow graduates, will they be "CAST Certified?"

No they will not be "CAST Certified." Fellows that graduate from a CAST Accredited fellowship are able to receive a diploma or letter from their program that states they have graduated from a CAST accredited fellowship. 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.

Estimating Case Log Numbers

When entering your case log numbers into any CAST application, it is important that exact case numbers are used and you are not estimating. Case log numbers should not all be ending in multiples of five or ten.

To participate in a CAST fellowship, do residents need to have graduated from an ACGME accredited residency program?

No. For international fellows, program are able to accept qualified residents into their fellowship if they have graduated from the ACGME accreditation equivalent in their home area. Additionally, programs are at liberty to accept fellows from DO programs as well if they feel they are qualified. Of note, if it is a subspecialty that has a pathway to RFP, the RFP requirements are defined by ABNS, not CAST.

When does a program have to start doing annual reports?

If you are approved for a CAST fellowship you will submit your first annual report the following year. For example, you are approved spring of 2023 cycle. You will fill out your first annual report in the summer of 2024 that reviews the 2023-2024 academic year, whether you had a fellow or not.



CAST: The Committee on Advanced Subspecialty Training

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

CNS Endovascular Surgery

As of March 2023

Program Requirements

Case Log (Click to download)

View all Subspecialties

Updates & Useful Information For Programs

Request Program Coordinator Change Request Program Director Change



Subspecialty Specific Updates

CNS Endovascular

What is a program complement?

Your program complement is how many fellows can graduate in any academic year. That does NOT include anyone in a prerequisite year or first year of a two year fellowship.

Why are support letters from the Chairs of Radiology and Neurology required for new applications and Annual Report applications?

The NESAC Committee requires letters of support from Neurology and Radiology, as well as Neurosurgery because all three specialties influence the CNS Endovascular subspecialty. Since CAST CNS Endovascular fellows can be neurosurgeons, neurologists, or radiologists, it is important that your program has support of all three of those specialties for your CAST fellowship.

Program Director Requirements

For a CAST accredited fellowship in CNS Endovascular, the Fellowship Program Director must have a subspecialty credential. The credential required should be either a CAST Certificate or Recognition of Focus Practice (RFP) credential that is awarded by the ABNS.

CAST Certificate to RFP Conversions

NeuroEndovascular CAST Certificates have not been awarded since the fall of 2019. If you have a CAST Certificate, you have until December 31, 2023 to take advantage of the CAST Certificate to RFP conversion application offered by the ABNS.

Why are Cerebrovascular case numbers required on new (and previously renewal) CNS Endovascular applications?

By including the Cerebrovascular case numbers, as well as the Endovascular numbers, provides a snapshot of the entire Cerebrovascular activity of the program, which allows the Endovascular cases to be seen in a larger context. They are not required for Annual Report applications.

New addition to CNS Endovascular case log

As the number of Middle Meningeal Artery embolization procedures has grown substantially, CAST would like to include this procedure in its own category on the annual case report form this year. This will allow us to better understand how many of these cases are being performed at each institution. There will be no minimum MMA embolization case number requirements for the 2023 Annual Report, but we ask that all programs try to fill out these numbers. If a program is unable to calculate this number coming up in the 2023 Annual Report the category can be left blank, however, this category will be mandatory to include case numbers next year in the 2024 Annual Report. This information will help determine whether MMA embolization continues to be an isolated case category or incorporated into one of the existing case categories.

CAST Members serve 2 year terms, renewable once for a total of 4 years of service

The Committee on Advanced Subspecialty Training (CAST)

 Charles Branch, MD Chair Wake Forest Baptist Winston-Salem, NC	 Vincent Traynelis, MD Chair Elect Rush University Chicago, IL	 Perry Ball, MD Neurocritical Care and Trauma Chair Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center Lebanon, NH	 Brian Han, MD Cerebrovascular University of Florida Gainesville, FL
 William Mack, MD CNS Endovascular Chair University of Southern California Los Angeles, CA	 Jonathan Miller, MD Neurovascular Chair Case Western Reserve University Cleveland, OH	 Linda Loba, MD Neurological & Skull Base UCSF Los Angeles, CA	 Douglas Broome, MD Radiology University of Utah Salt Lake City, UT
 Mike Stemann, MD Fellowship Chair Cleveland, OH	 Robert Harbaugh, MD JRC Chair Ad Hoc Harvard, MA	 Russell Lomas, MD ABNS Secretary Ad Hoc The Ohio State University Columbus, OH	

Neuroendovascular Surgery Advisory Committee (NESAC)

 William Mack, MD NESAC Chair University of Southern California Los Angeles, CA	 Amor Hassan, MD Neurology Vallentyne Baptist Health System Harrington, TX	 Sameer Ansari, MD Radiology Northwestern Chicago, IL	 Lee Pridie, MD Radiology Vanderbilt University Dallas, TX
 Adam Arthur, MD Neurology Seimens Murphy Memphis, TN	 Sainepoula Tjularakari, MD Neurology Thomas Jefferson University Philadelphia, PA	 Raul Negret, MD Neurology UPMC Pittsburgh, PA	 Anwar Rai, MD Radiology West Virginia University Martinsburg, WV
 Johana FIS, MD Neurology Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai New York, NY	 Charles Branch, MD CAST Chair Wake Forest Baptist Winston-Salem, NC	 Vincent Traynelis, MD CAST Chair Elect Rush University Chicago, IL	

Neurocritical Care Trauma Advisory Committee (NCTAC)

 Perry Ball, MD Neurology Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center Lebanon, NH	 Richard Rogers, MD Neurosurgeon Goodman Campbell Carmel, IN	 Lari Jellison, MD Neurology UPMC Pittsburgh, PA	 Jenna Linzer, MD Neurosurgeon Zucker School of Medicine at Brookline/Harvard Great Neck, NY
 S. Alan Heller, MD Neurosurgeon Case Western Reserve University Cleveland, OH	 Cheryl Chung, MD Neurology Duke University Durham, NC	 David Okoniewski, MD Neurology UPMC Pittsburgh, PA	 S. Will Hazard, MD Neuroepidemiology Penn State Hershey, PA
 Angelo Diaghia, MD Neurology University of Alabama Birmingham, AL	 Charles Branch, MD CAST Chair Wake Forest Baptist Winston-Salem, NC	 Vincent Traynelis, MD CAST Chair Elect Rush University Chicago, IL	

All requirement documents are being formatted with same layout and flow and will all also contain the case minimums for institution and fellow (when applicable).

CAST Update

ARANS, May 19, 2023

General Updates

Administrative Changes

- Dr. Pam Derstine joined the CAST team in 2022

Acceptance timeline updates

- A program cannot accept a person into their program (fellowship) until completion of their PGY3 year.
- Excludes CNS Endo and NCC

Off Cycle Fellows

- If you have a fellow that starts off cycle for any reason, you should not submit their fellow numbers until the first annual report after they have graduated

Case Numbers

- Make sure CPT codes are not what is counted for case numbers as they don't lead to accurate procedure counts (Spine is developing a case report tool)

Submit a complete application

- All areas are expected to be complete.
 - Licensing and certification info is often not fully complete



CAST UPDATE

ARANS, May 19, 2023

Application Cycle Updates

Application Cycle Change

- Fall Cycle (previously open August 1 – September 30) has been discontinued
- Yearly Annual Report will offer continuous accreditation
- 5-year renewal applications will no longer be required
- Programs have to submit a new application if their annual report is not in compliance (serious concerns, probation, etc.) That new application would need to be submitted the following spring cycle.
- Spring cycle will continue on as is for new applications, open from January 1st through February 28th.



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



CAST UPDATE

ARANS, May 19, 2023

Fellowship Program Director Application

Fellowship Program Director application has been updated

- With renewal applications retired, the Fellowship Program Director change will be used to collect additional information
- With a new FPD for the fellowship, since they are “steering the ship” it makes sense to get that information from the potential FPD
- New questions added to FPD change application include
 - Describe nature of relationship between sponsoring neurosurgery and fellowship programs
 - Define goals of the CAST fellowship
 - Describe supervision of CAST fellowship
 - Describe fellow evaluation
 - Detail how the fellowship will ensure not to negatively impact residency program



CAST Update

ARANS, May 19, 2023

Annual Report Updates

The Annual Report application has been updated for 2023

Continued Accreditation

- Annual Report will now offer ongoing accreditation (vs. 5 year accreditation)
- 5-year renewal applications will no longer be required
- Programs may have to submit a new or expanded application in response to concerns raised on the annual report. That submission would be due during the Spring application review cycle..

Annual Report Assignments

- Programs will be responsible for obtaining their own Annual Report Application from SM Apply
- Once you have obtained your application, rename each application: "Institution, Sub-Specialty, 2023AR"
- Opens June 1 and closes July 31



CAST UPDATE

ARANS, May 19, 2023

Annual Report Updates

Block diagram/Fellow Schedule/Sites

- Ensure that you are detailing the same in each category, for instance, if you have 3 sites you fellows are going to, there should be 3 sites detailed in the block diagram, fellow schedule, and corresponding cases submitted for each. If they do not match, there should be an explanation provided as to why

Complement Changes

- With the fall cycle discontinued, complement changes can be requested via the Annual Report
- For complement changes, ensure you have case volume and faculty to support an additional fellow. Without sufficient case numbers or faculty (CNS-Endo) the complement change will not be approved

Site Changes

- With the fall cycle discontinued, site change requests will be available via the Annual Report



CAST Update ARANS, May 19, 2023

Annual Report Updates

Site(s) information will be required in annual reports

Program should ensure they are submitting a full faculty list, including the FPD within that list

Ensure you are providing CVs for any new faculty members

Subspecialty certificates/credentials will need to be uploaded for Endovascular and Neurocritical Care, so keep them saved in your files



CAST Update

ARANS, May 19, 2023

Subspecialty Updates

CNS Endovascular

- Fellowship is changing to a 2-year fellowship to better monitor year one and the prerequisite angiogram requirements.
 - The graduating program will be responsible for obtaining and submitting prerequisite year numbers from previous institution for those that transfer after their prerequisite year. The graduating program will be required to enter in the annual report the year they graduate
- Fellowships must maintain 2:1 Faculty:Fellow ratio or complement will be reduced.
- Discussion is ongoing for Match
- Complement confusion
 - Approved CAST complement is how many fellows can graduate in any academic year. This does NOT include anyone in first year of a two year / prerequisite year fellowship
 - Case log minimums will be reviewed and updated in near future
 - MMA embo now added to case log. Please include numbers if you can for 2023. Will be mandatory to provide numbers for that category in 2024.



CAST UPDATE

ARANS, May 19, 2023

Subspecialty Updates

Neurocritical Care

- Fellows should be receiving a full fellowship experience by covering in other units rather than just the Neurosurgical ICU
- Programs need to detail the units covered (Surgical ICU, Medical ICU, Cardiac ICU, etc.) in the block diagram including length of rotation
- Ensure you are pulling institutional numbers for procedures that your fellows would have access to
- The Program Director AND Faculty Neurosurgeon for the fellowship MUST have Neurocritical Care credential to maintain CAST accreditation
 - PD: CAST Certificate, UCNS, ABPN, or Recognition of Focus Practice (RFP) credential
 - Faculty Neurosurgeon: UCNS, ABPN, or Recognition of Focus Practice (RFP) credential, or at minimum passed the RFP NCC exam.

Neurotrauma

- Newest subspecialty, continue to promote



CAST Update

ARANS, May 19, 2023

Subspecialty Updates ~ CNS Endovascular and Neurocritical Care Programs

Encourage your faculty that have a CAST Certificate to submit their CAST Certificate to RFP application offered by the ABNS. Why?

- Easier, much shorter application (no exam!)
- Deadline to submit the application is December 31, 2023.
 - This deadline will **NOT** change.
- \$100 application fee

If the conversion application is not done and there is a need to obtain the RFP in the future, the application is more involved

- Case numbers/procedure log need to be submitted
- Letters of support are needed from Chairs of Neurosurgery, Neurology, and Radiology, practice attestation, etc. (depending on subspecialty)
- You must take and pass the RFP Exam given by the ABNS
 - The exam is given once per year for Neurocritical Care (May)
 - The exam is given twice per year for CNS Endovascular (May, December)
- \$2000 exam fee + \$500 application fee



CAST Update ARANS, May 19, 2023

Subspecialty Updates ~ CNS Endovascular and Neurocritical Care Programs

Failure to provide proof of RFP when required*
or provide proof that the RFP process is
underway by June 30, 2024, will have an impact
to your program accreditation (probation or
loss of accreditation).

- * CNS Endo: Program Director
- * NCC: Program Director if Neurosurgeon, or Faculty Neurosurgeon at minimum must pass RFP exam



CAST Update

ARANS, May 19, 2023

Subspecialty Updates

Spine

- Discussion on refining case report formatting to address CPT challenge
 - Spine is developing a case report tool

Peripheral Nerve

- Minimum requirements numbers updated for both institutional and fellow case numbers starting 2023 Annual Report

Stereotactic & Functional

- Minimum case requirements updated in 2022



CAST Update

ARANS, May 19, 2023

Subspecialty Updates

Skull Base

- Discussion happening for potential Match with admin by NASBS

Neurosurgical Oncology

- Minimum case requirements updates are in discussion

Cerebrovascular

- Lower case numbers are continuing to be a concern
 - Skull Base fellowship could be option for programs with continued low case numbers



CAST Update

ARANS, May 19, 2023

Match Proposal

CNS Endovascular, Skull Base, Stereotactic &
Functional, Neurosurgical Oncology
Spine, Cerebrovascular
Neurocritical/Trauma Care – no plans



IMPORTANT CAST DATES 2023

	Application Opens	Application Closes	Review Deadline	Meetings
January	Spring Cycle Application Open: January 1 st			
February		Spring Cycle Application Closed: February 28 th		
March			Spring Application Reviews Due: end of March (TBD)	
April				AANS Meeting: April 21-24, 2023, Los Angeles NESAC Spring Cycle meeting: April 27
May				CAST Spring Cycle meeting: May 1 NCTAC Spring Cycle meeting: May 4 ABNS Oral Board Exam: May 11-13, 2023 NCC and CNS Endo RFP Exam: May 19, 2023 ARANS May 19, 2023 Dallas SNS Meeting: May 20-23, 2023, Dallas
June	Annual Report Cycle Open: June 1 st			
July		Annual Report Cycle Closed: July 31 st	Annual Report Reviews Due: late August / early September (TBD)	
August	Fall Cycle Application Open: August 1 st		Annual Report Reviews Due: late August / early September (TBD)	
September		Fall Cycle Application Closed: September 30 th		NCTAC / NESAC / CAST Annual Report Meetings: end of September/early October
October			Fall Application Reviews Due: end of October (TBD)	CNS Meeting: Oct. 9-13, 2023, Washington D.C.
November				ABNS Oral Board Exam: November 10-11, 2023 CAST/NESAC/NCTAC Fall Application Mtg: Last week in November & First week in December
December				CNS Endovascular RFP Exam: 12.1.23 CAST/NESAC/NCCTAC Fall Cycle Meeting Late November / Early December

IMPORTANT CAST DATES 2024

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

CAST Update ARANS, May 19, 2023

Review of questions from programs

Q: Our program is interested in applying for a CAST fellowship. What is the process?

A: Contact CAST via the website or email and request an application. Once that application is assigned to you, you are the “owner” of that application. As the owner, you can add collaborators on to the application to assist in filling it out. You will want to submit that application during the spring cycle which is January 1 through February 28th. The application will be reviewed and you will receive a result letter late spring/early summer.

Q: When do we have to start doing annual reports?

A. If you are approved for a CAST fellowship you will submit your first annual report the following year. For example, you are approved spring of 2023 cycle. You will fill out your first annual report in the summer of 2024 that reviews the 2023-2024 academic year, whether or not you had a fellow.



CAST Update

ARANS, May 19, 2023

Review of questions from programs

Q: How strict are case number minimums, especially as different programs may have different areas of interest

A: Regardless of the subspecialty, all minimum case requirements are expected to be met for both institutional numbers as well as fellow numbers.

Q: Why are Cerebrovascular case numbers required on new (and previously renewal) CNS Endovascular applications?

A: By including the Cerebrovascular case numbers and Endovascular numbers, it provides a snapshot of the entire Cerebrovascular activity of the program, which allows the Endovascular cases to be seen in a larger context. They are not required for Annual Report applications.

Q: To participate in a CAST fellowship, do residents need to have graduated from an ACGME accredited residency program?

A: Not necessarily. For international fellows, they need to have graduated from the ACGME accreditation equivalent in their home area. Additionally, programs are at liberty to accept fellows from DO programs as well if they feel they are qualified. Of note, if it is a subspecialty that has a pathway to RFP, the RFP requirements are defined by ABNS, not CAST.



CAST Update ARANS, May 19, 2023

Review of questions from programs

Q: Are our CAST graduates CAST Certified?

A: CAST has not awarded individual certificates since 2019. Since that time, fellows are able to say that they graduated from a CAST accredited fellowship, however they are not “CAST Certified.”

OTHER QUESTIONS?

