

# SVS VQI PSO Fellowship in Training (FIT) Program

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# Overview

- Fellowship in Training (FIT)
  - Inception & Development
  - Roadmap
  - General Overview
- FIT Generations
- JC Scholarship
  - Scholars
  - Projects
  - Future Integration
- Evaluation & Satisfaction Surveys
- Next FIT Generation



# FIT Inception, Development & Overview

- VQI inception 2011
- 1,015 centers
- 1,280,151 procedures
- 14 vascular registries
- Foundation of quality
- Promote vascular quality research
- Supports efforts to reduce costs and resource utilization
- The future of vascular care begins with fellows, residents, and trainees

- Flagship program focused on quality processes and data utilization
- PSO directed 12-18-month program
- Individuals completing residency/fellowship in vascular disease-focused specialty
  - General surgery
  - Vascular surgery
  - Cardiology
  - Radiology
  - Vascular medicine



# FIT Program

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- Collaboration
  - APDVS
  - ACC
  - SVM
  - SCAI
- Scholarship eligibility
  - In honor of Dr. Jack Cronenwett
    - Professor of Surgery at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
    - Professor of Dartmouth Center for Healthcare Policy and Clinical Research
    - Chief Medical Officer for FIVOS

- FIT Committee – Diverse group of members
  - APDVS
  - SVS PSO Governing Council
  - SCAI
  - SVM
  - VQI DEI
  - 0-5 Resident Representative
  - PSO Staff

GC approval of Mentors meeting one or more criteria:

- VQI Member active in presentation or publication experience with activity in
  - a) Clinical research
  - b) Outcomes research
  - c) Cost and comparative effectiveness
  - d) Health equity
  - e) Quality and process improvement
  - f) Statistical support
- Primary Mentor
- \*Secondary/Remote Mentor (\*see notes)



- Local collaboration preferred \*remote assistance accepted
  - \*see note section for remote mentor role
- Allows familiarity with QI team including data manager
- Mentor agrees to minimum quarterly meetings
- Mentor will:
  - a. Encourage FIT participation in Regional Meetings
  - b. Review and approve project design and plan
  - c. Review and facilitate RAC proposal
  - d. Interpretation of project results
  - e. Review and approve any abstract, presentation or publication



# FIT Candidates

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Any year resident/fellow in following specialties with vascular interest:

- General Surgery
- Vascular Surgery- 0-5, 0-7 (research), 5+2
- Vascular Medicine
- Cardiology- General (4-6), Interventional (7-8)

# FIT Roadmap

## FIT Roadmap

Application Process:  
personal statement  
career interest/goal,  
project area, 2 LOR  
and letter of good  
standing from PD



Mentor matching:  
discuss goals, project  
ideas, career



Submission to  
Research Advisory  
Committee –and  
local IRB ->  
refinement as needed



VQI @  
VAM/awards  
selection  
including Jack  
Cronenwett MD  
scholarship



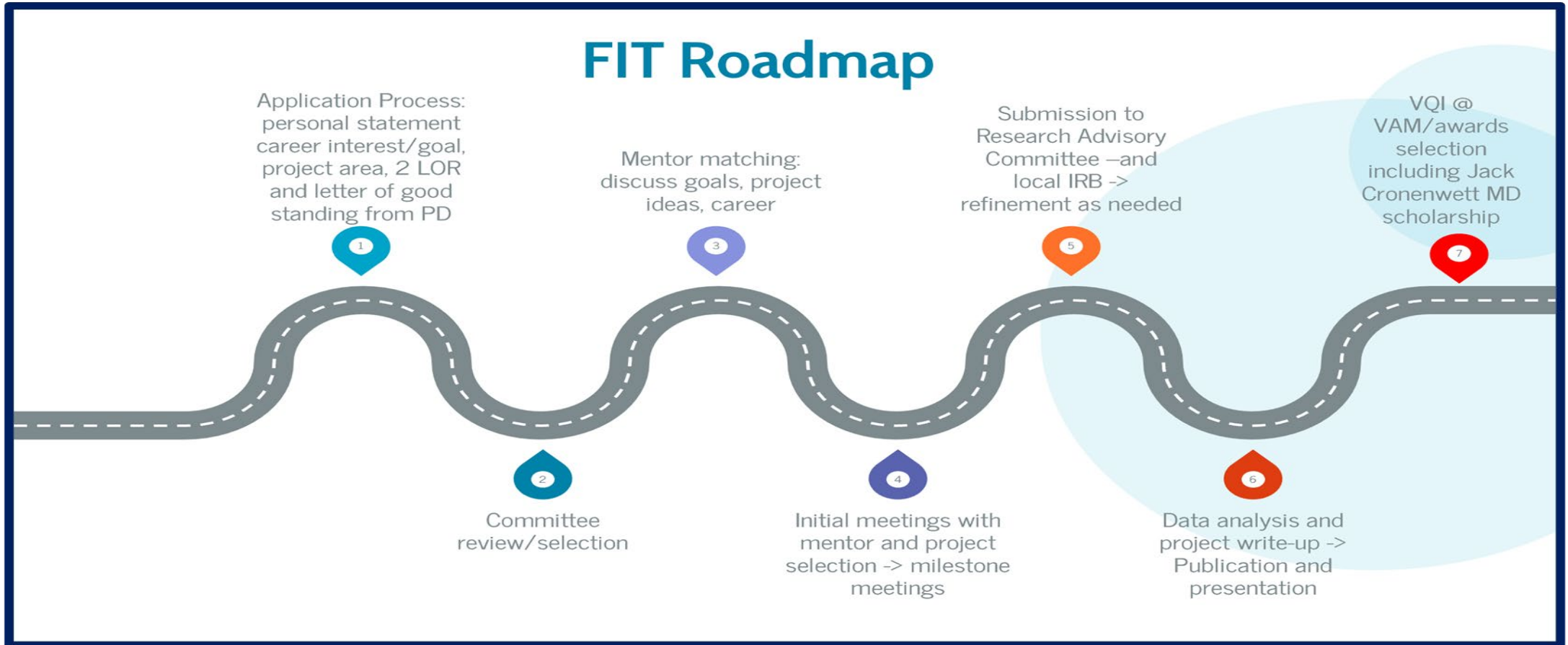
Committee  
review/selection



Initial meetings with  
mentor and project  
selection -> milestone  
meetings



Data analysis and  
project write-up ->  
Publication and  
presentation



# FIT Learning Objectives

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- Tier 1 and Tier 2
- Defined parameters consistent with ACGME Milestone-graduated measures
- Goals based on levels of Systems Based Practice for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety
- Standardized 'Certificate' of participation for FIT Program
- Establish timeline for FIT participation and performance
- Scholarship eligible products for Tier 2 advancement

# FIT Program – ACGME Vascular Surgery Milestone 2.0

## Quality Improvement Checklist

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<u>Introduction</u>  VQI-Web Portal info (members only login) Mentor led review of variables/definitions LTFU parameters and mandatory fields Local Data Manager introduction	<u>Acquire Knowledge</u>  Review of local data/QI with Mentor and DM Knowledge of Quality Charter build Regional meeting prep call (ad hoc)	<u>Familiarity with VQI</u>  Existing Quality Charters and QI projects (website)  Participate in Quality Charter build at local/regional level	<u>Participates</u>  Demonstrate skills for use of Registry data to develop QI project Initiate Quality Charter or QI project Publication with VQI data (minor role)	<u>Leads</u>  National QI at center/regional level Presents QI/QC at regional/national meeting Publication with VQI data (major role)

**Comments:** VQI web Portal info includes “Why Should I Join the VQI”; 2021 Annual Report; VQI: “Past, Present and Future”; AHRQ PSO guidelines; ‘Members Only’ info topics

# FIT Program – ACGME Vascular Surgery Milestone 2.0

Patient Safety Checklist				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<u>Introduction</u>  PSO Organizational Chart Pathways website and Analytic Engine Reports Audible bleeding: RAC introduction	<u>Acquire Knowledge</u>  Interpret Registry reports for Quality Improvement Review existing RAC projects GC meeting attendance (ad hoc) Attend Regional Study Group	<u>Familiarity with PSO</u>  Present comparative data at Regional Study Group SQUIRE 2.0 guidelines and RAC requirements for research RAC journal club	<u>Participates</u>  Regional Project for Venous or Arterial RAC-new Join existing RAC project-analysis	<u>Leads</u>  Abstract submission for VQI@VAM Podium presentation of RAC research RAC research publication (major role)
<b>Comments:</b>				



# FIT Program Requirements

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- FIT Work product
- Regular meeting times mentors/fellows
- Quarterly zoom calls
- Attend Regional Meetings (Spring and Fall)
- Self-evaluation (1)
- Mentor/Fellow evaluation (1)
- Maintain regular communication with SVS PSO Director of Quality
- Other Assignments as requested

# FIT Program Options

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- **Highly encouraged**
  - VSGNE/NESVS Educational offerings
  - Monthly Zoom networking calls
  - VQI@VAM annual meeting
  - Routinely review [www.vqi.org](http://www.vqi.org) for FIT Program updates
  - Attend VQI Webinars (QI and Pathways)
  - Additional offerings as provided

# First Class FIT Generation 2022-2023

<b>FIT Mentor</b>	<b>FIT Trainee</b>	<b>Center</b>
Sarah Deery	Aarathi Minisandram	Maine Medical Center
Graham Roche-Nagle	Ben Li	Toronto General Hospital
Sara Zettervall	Blake Murphy	University of Washington Medical Center
Phil Goodney	Brianna Krafcik	Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
Benjamin Brooke	Caronae Howell	The University of Arizona
Shihuan K Wang	Channa Blakely	UTMB Health
Danny Bertges	Christine Kariya	University of Vermont Medical Center
Adam Beck	Claire Motyl	University of Alabama Medical Center
Michael Murphy	Hanaa Dakour Aridi	IU Health - Methodist
Edward Gifford	Laura Healy	Hartford Hospital/University of Connecticut
Eleftherios Xenos	Lauren Grimsley	UK Healthcare
Kyla Bennett	Leah Gober	University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority
Karan Garg	Rae Rokosh	NYU Langone Health
Beau Hawkins	Razan Elsayed	OU Medical Center
Leila Mureebe	Roberto Loanzon	Duke University Health System
Nikoloas Zacharias	Srihari Kumar Lella	Massachusetts General Hospital



# Jack Cronenwett Scholarship

12 out of 16 FIT Trainees applied JC  
Scholarship



2 Trainees submitted more than  
one application



17 total applications were scored



10 FIT Committee Members scored  
applications



2 Types of Scorecards: Quality  
Improvement and Research

# First Class Jack Cronenwett Scholars

<b>FIT Mentor</b>	<b>FIT Fellow</b>	<b>Center</b>
Graham Roche-Nagle	Ben Li	Toronto General Hospital
Phil Goodney	Brianna Krafcik	Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
Benjamin Brooks	Caronae Howell	University of Utah Hospital & Clinics/University of AZ
Danny Bertges	Christine Kariya	University of Vermont Medical Center
Michael Murphy	Hanna Dakour Aridi	Indiana University Health - Methodist

# JC Scholar Projects

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- Caronae Howell/Benjamin Brooks – Outreach and LTFU for underserved CLTI patients, Native American, migrant health
- Hanaa Dakour Aridi/Michael Murphy – Mentoring fellow colleagues on VQI; educational tutorial on how to understand dictionary, variables, LTFU, etc.
- Ben Li/Graham Roche Nagle – Artificial Intelligence machine learning with VQI; calculate importance measures in each registry by identifying most impactful data points
- Brianna Krafcik/Phil Goodney – Comparing CEA v TCAR patient outcomes; Silkroad interested, Shared decision making to be implemented; outcomes for 30 day and LTFU (9-21 months post procedure)
- Christine Kariya/Danny Bertges- PROs (Patient reported outcomes) into the EMR and VQI registries. She has been instrumental in the PAD PRO pilot.

# JC Scholar Projects

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- Group JC Scholar Project
  - Understanding VQI among Trainees, Residents, Fellows
  - APDVS platform
  - PSO to review survey questions
  - Considerations
    - Gift card for completing survey
    - Demonstrate value of survey
    - How will data be used
    - Who will take survey

# JC Scholar SVS VQI Integration

- Administrative - Select top 4
  - Attend mtgs AQC, VQC, Councils, Clinical
  - Ancillary mtgs at VQI@VAM
    - Corporate v Committee
  - Regional mtgs (prep calls too) and presentation (active role)
  - Review panels for abstracts for VQI@VAM
  - Participation in RAC reviews
  - 1:1 mentoring v tag along (Jens/Gary/Leila)
  - Attend/Participate QI Webinars guest speaker
  - Attend/Participate Caroline/Melissa's webinars
- Funding
  - Strategic Board mtg (Thurs-Sat)
  - Transportation for VQI@VAM and Chicago

# JC Scholar SVS VQI Integration

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- Statistician
  - Continue Research or QI
  - 50% or more and need additional assistance
    - Funding for this specifically
    - Kristopher, Kaity, or Jeff v Outside Help
  - 1:1 mentoring (Jim)
- Crosstrain
  - Different center location
    - Continue research with advanced mentor based on availability and coordination

\*Will need PSO workforce training

# JC Scholar SVS VQI Integration

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- This group is instrumental with PSO Integration through
  - PSO Clinical Weekly Calls
  - PSO Analytics Team Involvement
  - AQC Committee
  - FIT Committee
  - PVI Committee
  - Carotid Committee
  - RAC
  - VQI@VAM Annual Review
    - Quality Posters
    - Rapid Fire Podium Presentations

# JC Scholar SVS VQI Integration Selection

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- PSO workforce training
- PSO Clinical Committee
- Carotid Registry Committee
- Lower Extremity Bypass Registry Committee
- RAC Proposal Reviews
- VQI@VAM Abstract Proposal Reviews
  - QI
  - Rapid Fire
- Arterial Quality Council Committee
- Analytic Committee
- Regional Meeting Involvement
- 1:1 Mentoring

\*All in conjunction with their continuation of FIT Program work product



# FIT Program Evaluations & Satisfaction Surveys

- FIT Mentors and FIT Fellows
  - Midterm and Final
- Satisfaction Survey
- Evaluation
  - Based on ACGME Milestone
    - FIT Mentors evaluate FIT Fellow
    - FIT Fellow self evaluate
- FIT Committee reviews feedback
  - Takes action as appropriate

# FIT Mentor Satisfaction Survey

■ Very satisfied   ■ Somewhat satisfied   ■ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied   ■ Somewhat dissatisfied   ■ Very dissatisfied

How satisfied are you overall with the FIT Program?

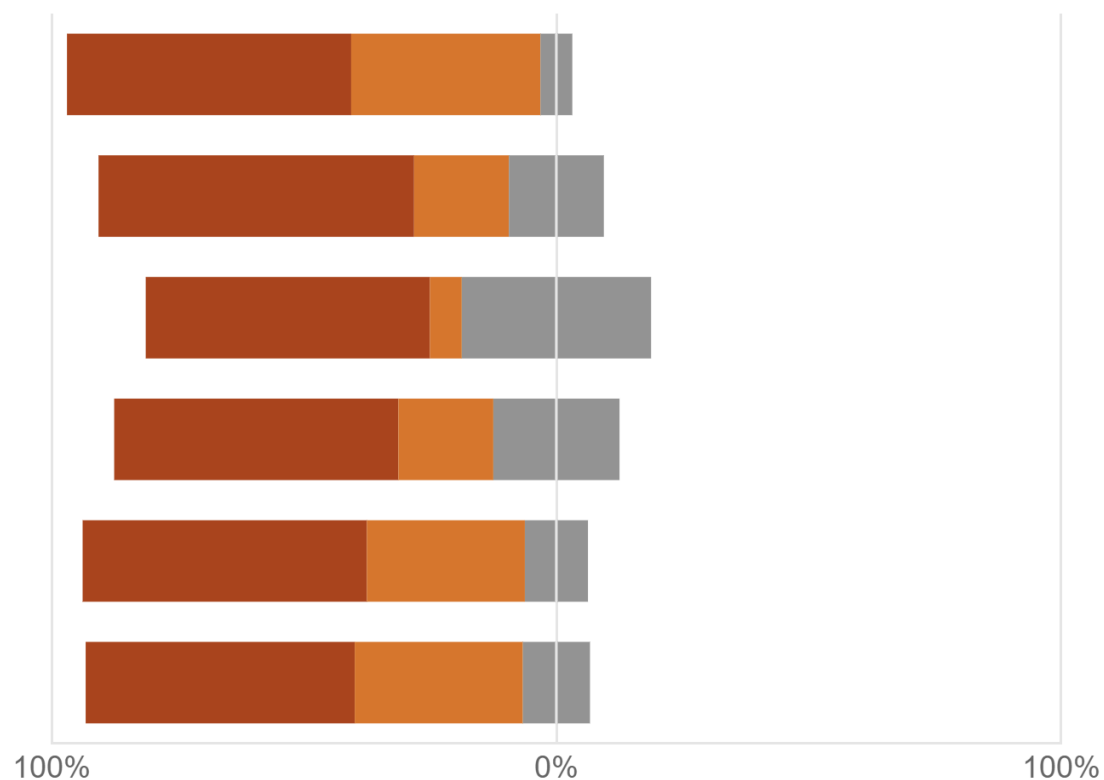
How satisfied are you with the FIT Trainee matching process?

How satisfied are you with the resources provided to you for the FIT Program?

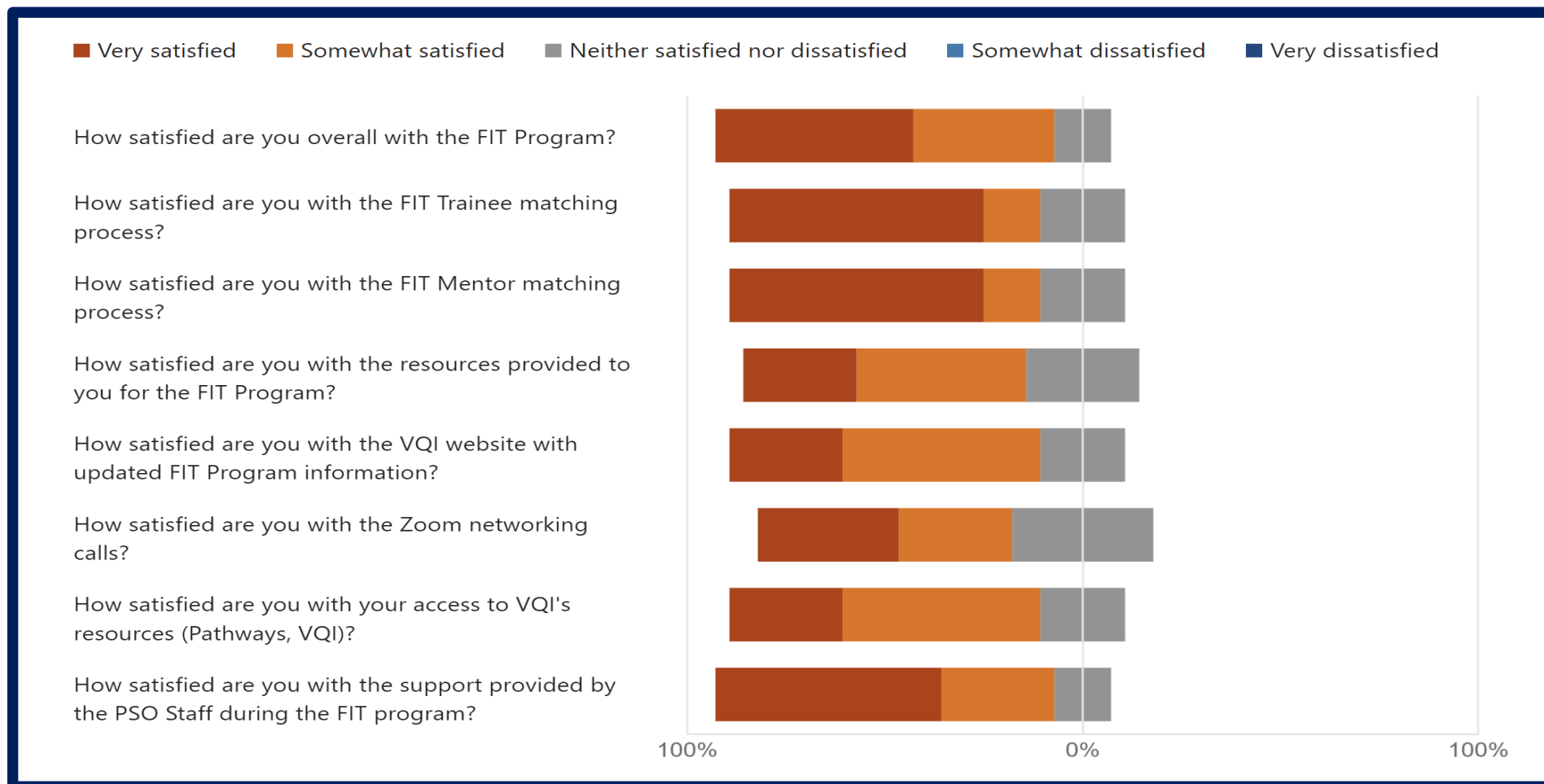
How satisfied are you with the VQI website with updated FIT Program information?

How satisfied are you with your Trainee's access to VQI's resources (Pathways, VQI)?

How satisfied are you with the support provided by the PSO Staff during the FIT program?



# FIT Fellow Satisfaction Survey



# Second Class FIT Generation 2023-2024

<b>FIT Mentor</b>	<b>FIT Fellow</b>	<b>Center</b>
Michael Costanza	Deena Chihade	University Hospital
Samantha Minc	Paul Rothenberg	WVU
Nikolaos Zacharias	Mitri Khoury	Massachusetts General Hospital
Nikolaos Zacharias	Tiffany Bellomo	Massachusetts General Hospital
Arash Bornack	Christopher Chow	University of Miami
Michael Madigan/Mohammed Eslami	Mikayla Lowenkamp	UPMC
Thomas Brothers	Saranya Sundaram	Medical University in South Carolina
Benjamin Jacobs/Sal Scali	Michael Fassler	University of Florida
Adam Beck	Amanda Filiberto	University of Alabama Birmingham
Brian DeRubertis	Nakia Sarad	Weill Cornell Medical Center
Dan Newton	Syeda Ayesha Farooq	Virginia Commonwealth University

# Jack Cronenwett Scholarship

9 out of 11 FIT Trainees Second  
Class applied JC Scholarship



10 total applications were  
scored\*



12 FIT Committee Members  
scored applications



2 Types of Scorecards: Quality  
Improvement and Research

# Second Class Jack Cronenwett Scholars

FIT Fellow	FIT Mentor	Center
Saranya Sundaram	Dr. Thomas Brothers	Medical University of South Carolina
Mikayla Lowenkamp	Dr. Michael Madigan Co Mentor: Dr. Mohammad Eslami	University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Mitri Khoury	Dr. Nikolaos Zacharias	Massachusetts General Hospital
Christopher Chow	Dr. Arash Bornak	University of Miami
Amanda Filiberto	Dr. Adam Beck	University of Alabama at Birmingham

# JC Scholar Projects

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- Saranya Sundaram/ Thomas Brothers – LOS post CEA and/or stenting – improving mechanisms to improve communication between specialties, standardizing perioperative medications, adjusting hemodynamic parameters, and supporting early rehabilitation placement as appropriate
- Mikayla Lowenkamp/Michael Madigan – Identified quality deficit in her division’s prescribing patterns of ASA and statins as well as increased smoking rates after vascular interventions developing a three-pronged approach to improving the quality of care
- Mitri Khoury/Nikolaos Zacharias – Exploring the concept of “unfit for open repair” in abdominal aortic aneurysm patients
- Christopher Chow/Arash Bornak – Compared if modality of CAS affected incidence of CHS and if severity of CHS was affected by modality of CAS
- Amanda Filiberto/Adam Beck – Sought to challenge the existing method of assessing post-procedural renal dysfunction in the VQI Registry. She feels that the current method is not sensitive/specific enough, and that the KDIGO acute kidney injury assessment would be a better method

# JC Scholar SVS VQI Integration

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- This group is instrumental with PSO Integration through
  - Smoking Cessation PSO and SVS Committee
  - AQC Committee
  - Lower Extremity (PVI) Committee
  - Aortic Committee
  - EVAR Committee
  - Carotid Committee
  - RAC
  - VQI@VAM Annual Review
    - Quality Posters
    - Rapid Fire Podium Presentations



# FIT Program Evaluations & Satisfaction Surveys (Now Combined)

- FIT Mentors and FIT Fellows
  - Final
- Satisfaction Survey
- Evaluation
  - Based on ACGME Milestone
    - FIT Mentors evaluate FIT Fellow
    - FIT Fellow self evaluate
- FIT Committee reviews feedback
  - Takes action as appropriate

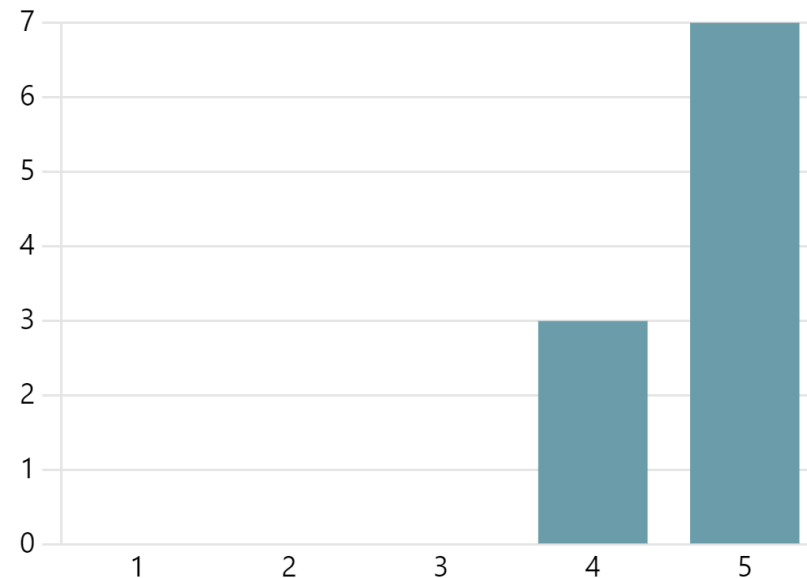
# FIT Mentor Satisfaction Survey – overall FIT Program

Please rate your experience. How satisfied are you overall with the FIT Program?  
5 =Very satisfied 4 =Somewhat satisfied 3 =Neither satisfied nor satisfied 2 =Somewhat dissatisfied 1 = Very dissatisfied

[More Details](#)

 Insights

4.70  
Average Rating



# FIT Fellow Satisfaction Survey – Mentor Matching

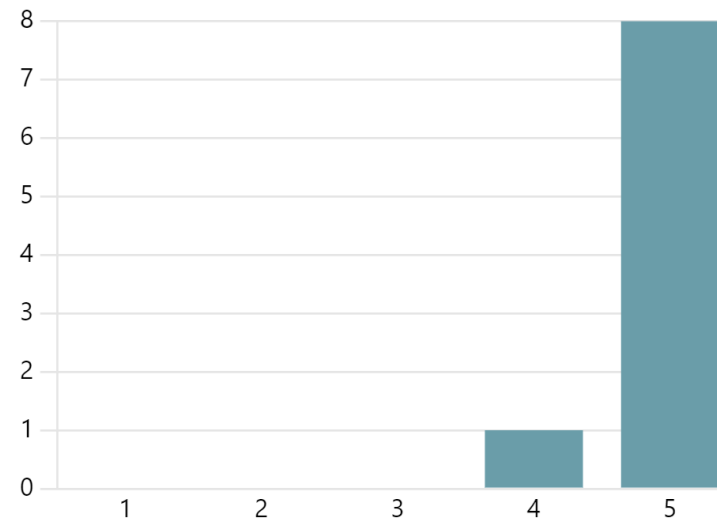
Please rate your experience. How satisfied are you overall with the FIT Fellow matching process?  
5 =Very satisfied 4 =Somewhat satisfied 3 =Neither satisfied nor satisfied 2 =Somewhat dissatisfied 1 = Very dissatisfied

\*Leave blank if it doesn't apply

[More Details](#)

 Insights

4.89  
Average Rating



# Third Class FIT Generation 2024-2025

FITMentor	FITFellow	Center
Dr. Miranda Withford	Lisa Vi	University Health Network, Toronto, ON
Dr. Matthew Corriere	Chinmayee Potti	The Ohio State University
Dr. Michael Madigan	Lindsey A. Olivere	UPP Vascular Surgery
Dr. Matthew Corriere	Gabrielle Rieth	The Ohio State University
Dr. Pouya Entezami	Guillermo Polanco Serra	Henry Ford Health
Dr. Jason Ryan	Michael Chaney	Western Michigan University
Dr. Abhishek Singh	Vinay Bhusan Lakki	Creighton University Med Center
Dr. Ashley Vavra	Lara Lopes	Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Dr. Matthew Blecha	Karan Chawla	Integrated Vascular Surgery Loyola Medical Center
Dr. Matthew Blecha	Lorela Weise	Loyola University Medical Center, Integrated Vascular Surgery Residency

# Third Class FIT Generation 2024-2025

Dr. Robert Meisner	Ioannis Tsouknidas	Lankenau Medical Center
Dr. Adam Beck	Angela Danielle Sickels	University Of Alabama Medical Center
Dr. Nii-Kabu Kabutey	Menna Hegazi	University of California, Irvine
Dr. Linda Harris	Isaac Naazie	Buffalo General Medical Center
Dr. Michael Stoner	Irina Kanza farova	University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
Dr. Nikolaos Zacharias	Falen Demas	Massachusetts General Hospital
Dr. Cassius Chaar	Justin Jay Bader	Yale New Haven Hospital
Dr. Marc Schermerhorn	Camila Guetter	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Dr. Nikolaos Zacharias	Brandon Gaston	Massachusetts General Hospital - Integrated Training Program
Dr. Marc Schermerhorn	Guaurang Joshi	Thomas Jefferson University

- VQI Website
- <https://www.vqi.org/quality-improvement/quality-fellowship-in-training-fit-program/>



## IN THIS SECTION

ABOUT THE FIT PROGRAM

APPLY TO THE FIT PROGRAM

TRAINEE RESOURCES

MENTOR RESOURCES

RELATED TOPICS