



SVS Patient Safety Organization VQI Fellowship in Training (SVS PSO FIT)

Overview

The Society for Vascular Surgery Patient Safety Organization, LLC (SVSPSO), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving vascular quality within hospitals and outpatient facilities, launched a Quality Fellowship in Training (SVS PSO FIT) scholarship program. It is for individuals completing their medical residencies or fellowships in any vascular disease-focused specialty, such as general surgery, vascular surgery, cardiology, radiology or vascular medicine.

The PSO directed 12- to 18-month program, which began in January 2022, aims to foster an understanding of quality processes and metrics among vascular residents and fellows – known as trainees – through mentorship in the VQI in collaboration with the Association of Program Directors in Vascular Surgery (APDVS), American College of Cardiology (ACC), Society for Vascular Medicine (SVM), and the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI).

Following completion of the program, up to five trainees per calendar year will be eligible to share in a portion of a \$50,000 educational scholarship fund to support participation in PSO-approved activities.

The scholarships honor Dr. Cronenwett's contributions to improving and advancing vascular care. He is a professor of surgery at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, professor of the Dartmouth Center for Health Care Policy and Clinical Research and Chief Medical Officer for Fivos, VQI's data management partner.

Since its inception in 2011, the SVS VQI has raised the bar for vascular care, quality improvement and patient outcomes. Today the Initiative includes participating medical centers, with more than 1000 hospitals and ambulatory facilities contributing data on greater than 1,000,000 procedures on patients with vascular disease. More than 6,000 physicians have participated in the VQI's 14 different vascular registries.

In addition to improving quality within hospitals and outpatient facilities, the VQI supports efforts to reduce costs and resource utilization as well as promoting vascular quality research. To learn more about SVS VQI, visit <https://www.vqi.org>.

Curriculum

The SVS PSO FIT Program is a self-directed and self-paced opportunity for FIT Trainees to practice autonomously and in collaboration with a matched FIT Mentor. Through partnership with a respective FIT Mentor, a FIT Trainee will navigate objectives, goals, and progress during the 12–18-month timeframe.

FIT Learning Group Objectives:

- Tier 1 FIT intro to VQI and PSO via educational materials
- Members Only section of website: www.VQI.org
- Defined parameters consistent with ACGME Milestones-graduated measures
- Goals based on levels of Systems Based Practice for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety
- Standardized 'Certificate' of participation to training program
- Establish Timeline for FIT participation and performance
- Scholarship eligible products for Tier 2 advancement

Requirements:

- FIT work product (see area **Scholarship eligibility for Tier 2 progression**)
- Establish regular meeting times
- Attend Regional Meetings – offered Spring and Fall
- Self-evaluation (1) Final
- Mentor/Trainee evaluation (1) Final
- Maintain regular communication with SVS PSO Director of Quality, Betsy Wymer
- Present at Zoom networking call on project
- Other assignments as requested

- **Optional but encouraged:**
 - VSGNE/NESVS educational offerings
 - Quarterly Zoom networking calls
 - VQI@VAM annual meeting
 - Routinely review www.vqi.org for FIT Program updates
 - Attend VQI Webinars (both Quality Improvement and Pathways)
 - Other offerings as provided

FIT Mentorship

A FIT Mentor must be an active VQI Member in presentation or publication experience with activity in one or more of the following:

- a. Clinical research
- b. Outcomes research
- c. Cost and comparative effectiveness
- d. Health equity
- e. Quality and process improvement
- f. Statistical support

Local collaboration is preferred with remote assistance accepted. They must have familiarity with the Quality Improvement team including the center data manager. A FIT Mentor agrees to a minimum of quarterly meetings with the designated FIT Trainee to perform the following expectations:

- 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 Trainee

A FIT Trainee can be any year resident/fellow in the following specialties with vascular interest:

- a. General Surgery
- b. Vascular Surgery- 0-5, 0-7 (research), 5+2
- c. Vascular Medicine
- d. Cardiology- General (4-6), Interventional (7-8)

Application:

- Personal statement- reasons for applying, career goals
- Must be in good standing as verified by Program Director
- CV
- 2 Letters of reference
- Area of interest- if known
- Proposed mentor
- Registries center participates in

- Registries project will use – if known

Call for Application in First Quarter of year

- Deadline submission February 28
- Applications are reviewed second quarter of year by FIT Review Board
- Program acceptance/start June to follow academic year

FIT Program Jack Cronenwett Scholarship

Tier 1:

- Center level may have more than 1 FIT applicant
- Preference given to include FITs in all regions
- Program duration a minimum of 12M; most expected to complete 18M cycle or greater
- GC and PSO to determine capacity of program

Tier 2:

- Limited to Scholarship recipients- 5/year
- One year duration with PSO staff and council or committee members

Scholarship eligibility for Tier 2 progression

GC oversight and approval subcommittee

- Review process of FIT 'work products'
- Nominal ranking of proposals- (Name/ gender/ site- blinded)
- Eligible work products include:
 - a. Poster abstract and presentation at VQI@VAM with FIT direction
 - b. QI project presentation at national meeting with FIT involvement
 - c. Manuscript publication using VQI data with FIT involvement
 - d. RAC research submission
 - e. FIT directed Quality Charter
 - f. Other

SVS/PSO Scholarship awarded annually at VQI@VAM. Five scholarships maximum awarded annually.

Resources

Dr. Adam Johnson, Chair FIT Program adam.johnson@duke.edu

Dr. Gary Lemmon, Co-Chair FIT Program GLemmon@svspso.org

Betsy Wymer, DNP, Director of Quality bwymmer@svspso.org

Assists with all areas of FIT Program

Jennifer Correa, Marketing Manager jcorrea@svspso.org

Assists with VQI member log in – Members only area

Melissa Latus, BSN, Clinical Operations Program Manager mlatus@svspso.org

Assists with RAC (regional, venous, and arterial) and BDS (blinded data set)

FIVOS, pathwayssupport@fivoshealth.com

Assists with pathways log in and support

Assists with registry documents

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