

Dear Fellowship Program Director:

The Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery, the Cerebrovascular Section of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons, and the Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology have collaborated to initiate a Fellowship Match process for training in Neurointervention. The application process will occur via the Electronic Resident Application Service (ERAS), and the Match will be administered by the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). The goal is to provide a unified approach for interested applicants to find training, as well as to streamline the application process for Fellowship Programs. The Match is open to currently accredited multi-specialty Neurointerventional Fellowship Programs.

The following information package contains a summary of the Neurointerventional Fellowship Match for your review. It aims to provide an overview of the process and specific information about how to participate.

A second document is attached with three brief forms. Please return the completed forms by **October 1, 2023** to NIFellowshipMatch@snisonline.org:

1. The Memorandum of Understanding to confirm your program's commitment to participate in the Match for the class starting fellowship in July 2027
2. The Neurointerventional Fellowship Program Letter of Commitment
 - Please provide us with some preliminary information about your program.
3. The ACGME Designated Institutional Official (DIO) Endorsement Letter
 - A letter addressed to the DIO is included as introduction of the need for DIO endorsement.
 - A copy of the attestation to be electronically signed by your institutional DIO (in the NRMP's R3 system) when the Match opens.

The Neurointerventional Fellowship Match Task Force will be seeking input from each program director by reaching out to them directly and via a town hall meeting over the next 4-8 weeks.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

The Neurointerventional Fellowship Match Task Force:

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Neurointerventional Fellowship Match Summary

Why should there be a Neurointerventional Fellowship Match?

The field of Neurointervention has grown rapidly over the last 30 years, and the number of residents interested in pursuing fellowship training is increasing. Neurointervention is a unique subspecialty under the shared umbrella of three specialties with various training pathways, and this has increased the competition and complexity for residents seeking fellowship positions. The current “rolling acceptance” process limits mutual visibility and access among programs and fellowship candidates, and the application process is difficult for prospective fellows to navigate.

The Neurointerventional Fellowship Match (the Match) aims to increase fairness in the application process and relieve pressure from programs to extend early offers to strong candidates. Through a matching service, the Match could centralize program contact information and simplify the application management process for each fellowship program.

The Neurointerventional Fellowship Match is designed by a task force made up of representatives from the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery (SNIS), the Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology (SVIN), and the AANS/CNS Cerebrovascular Section (JCV). Each society and association appointed members to form the Neurointerventional Fellowship Match Task Force, with equal representation between Neurology, Neuroradiology, and Neurosurgery, as nominated by the participating societies.

Between September 2020 and May 2023, the task force invested dozens of hours of individual and collaborative efforts in drafting, editing, and repeatedly refining numerous iterations to define a match structure that offers equal and inclusive access to high-quality multispecialty-accredited programs. This also implies detailed consideration for the feasibility of combined fellowships and application timelines in more than one subspecialty, for some applicants. The task force ensured equitability to all candidates, from each of the numerous pre-neurointerventional training pathways offered by Neurology, Neuroradiology, Neurosurgery, and Interventional Radiology.

How will the first Neurointerventional Fellowship Match be run?

The proposed Match will be run through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP), which is the largest medical education match service in the United States. Neurointerventional fellows would join 9,900 fellows already in ACGME-endorsed programs matched annually through the NRMP. After confirming their commitment to participate in the Match, each participating program will be contacted by the Fellowship Match Task Force for additional information in preparation for the first matching cycle. The Match will officially open for program registration in February 2025.

The Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) will make program information and requirements available to applicants by the application opening date in June 2025. ERAS will provide the platform for applicant registration, organization, and submission of the application. The NRMP will then run the match with the ranking of programs / applicants, and announce the results when available.

To ensure the Match's success, it is paramount that programs refrain from offering out-of-match training positions. Therefore, the Match requests that participating fellowship programs commit all their available training positions once they agree to join the Match, as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding. If some future positions have already been committed, the Match would not apply to those individuals.

How can the Match work for trainees coming from programs of various lengths?

Because various pathways for training in Neurointervention exist, individual applicants may seek different lengths of fellowship training in the match. Neurointerventional training typically requires at least two years, including a "requisite" year and an "interventional" fellowship year. Some applicants who will have already completed an enfolded or separate requisite fellowship year might only require one year of interventional training, while others may require two years to complete the requirements. To address this variation, the Neurointerventional Fellowship Match Task Force recommends that applicants declare whether they are applying for a one- or two-year fellowship position. One-year applicants should have documentation of the prerequisite training. If a fellowship matches a two-year applicant, it is expected that this individual would fill a position in that institution's fellowship for the next two years, and the fellowship would reduce their open positions for the following match cycle accordingly.

Please note that if an applicant matched to a one-year position were unable to complete the declared prerequisite training on time because of a documented unforeseen circumstance, the applicant would be given a waiver from the matched fellowship. However, if the candidate opts to participate in the Match without appropriate eligibility, it would be in violation of the NRMP Match Agreement. The violation would lead to withdrawal of the candidate and a review that may result in the applicant's exclusion from participating in a future match.

When will the projected first class of the Neurointerventional Fellowship Match start training?

The projected training start date of the first fellowship match class is July 2027. The application will open for candidates in June 2025. The first Match Day will occur in May 2026. Please refer to the figure at the end of this document for important reference dates.

What do programs need to do to participate in the Match?

Per NRMP requirements, participating programs must be accredited by ACGME *or* be affiliated with an ACGME residency program in one of the core prerequisite specialties. Here is a list of the first steps required for a program to participate:

By October 1, 2023:

- Complete and sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Complete and sign the Neurointerventional Fellowship Program Letter of Commitment
- At each program's respective institution, obtain an attestation from the ACGME Designated Institutional Officer (DIO) to endorse the fellowship program's affiliation with its parent specialty. The latter may be either Diagnostic Radiology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, or Interventional Radiology and may vary between institutions. This an NRMP requirement, through which the ACGME DIO assumes oversight of the fellowship program within their institution.
- Return the (1) MOU; (2) Neurointerventional Fellowship Program Letter of Commitment; and (3) DIO Attestation of Affiliation to the Neurointerventional Fellowship Match Task Force.

In February 2025:

- The first Neurointerventional Match opens for registration

Fees related to the fellowship match will be billed to the DIO at completion of the Match, as below:

- Submit the annual fee to the NRMP:
 - \$300 to register the program
 - \$100 per program track
 - \$85 for each fellow
 - E.g.: It would cost \$485 for one fellowship position per year, and \$85 for each additional fellow.

What do applicants need to do to participate in the Match?

Applicants should carefully review the information available (1) on the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) for the application timeline; and (2) on NRMP for the Neurointervention Match schedule. There is a cost of \$70 paid to the NRMP for each applicant to participate in the Match and rank up to 20 programs. Ranking each additional program will cost \$30.

What happens if a candidate is unmatched, or a position is unfilled?

The Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Process (SOAP) is unfortunately limited to the residency matches. On Match Day, the NRMP will also provide a list of applicants and positions that remain available, to facilitate further contact between unmatched candidates and programs for possible consideration. The applicants' information will remain available on ERAS for five (5) months after Match Day (until October of the same year).

Additional information can be accessed through NRMP and ERAS:

- **NRMP:** <https://www.nrmp.org/intro-fellowship-matches/>
- **ERAS:** <https://students-residents.aamc.org/training-residency-fellowship/applying-fellowships-eras/>

If you have any questions regarding the Neurointerventional Fellowship Match that have not been addressed by the above summary, please contact:

NIFellowshipMatch@snisonline.org

May 2026 (post-Match)

Unmatched programs & candidates:

- *List of unmatched positions & candidates available.*
- *Candidate profiles available in ERAS until 10/2025.*

July 2027

Fellowship starts for 1st Class

December 2025

*Program Directors & candidates:
Interviews start for 1st Match*

May 2026

1st Neurointerventional Fellowship Match Day

Early December 2025

Program Directors:

- *Applications available for review*

February 2025

Program directors:

- *Match opens for registration*
- *May 2025: Deadline for programs to confirm with NRMP their participation in the Match*

June 2025

Candidates:

- *Applications open on ERAS*

October 1, 2023

Program Directors:

- *Memorandum of Understanding due*
- *Letter of Commitment due*
- *DIO Letter of Endorsement due*

Mid-2023

- *4-week feedback period for Program Directors*
- *One townhall for Program Directors*
- *Discuss plan for NI Fellowship Match*
- *Introduce Memorandum of Understanding*
- *One townhall for applicants after feedback period*