

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 **December 15, 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 in Fall 2023.

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

Sincerely,

The Neurointerventional Fellowship Match Task Force:

Jenny Tsai
Sunil Sheth
David Liebeskind
Michael Chen
Johanna Fifi

Justin Fraser
J Mocco
Adnan Siddiqui
William Mack
Adam Arthur

James Milburn
Guilherme Dabus
Reade de Leacy
Mahesh Jayaraman
Lee Pride

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.

How will the Match account for enfolded fellowship positions?

Some residency programs have enfolded training in neurointervention available. This goes beyond a short 'exposure' rotation (2-4 weeks) and involves significant training in neurointervention. The two most common residency training programs with this availability are neurosurgery and interventional radiology residencies. In such cases, the home program of the residency would provide the prerequisite year within their training program. The resident would then apply to the match for the senior fellowship year only.

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 December 15, 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 2026:

- The first Neurointerventional Match opens for registration with NRMP

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

**Neurointerventional Fellowship Match
Memorandum of Understanding
for training starting in the 2027-2028 Academic Year**

Please complete (insert institution name, city and state) and sign this MOU by December 15, 2023 and return to the attention of the Neurointerventional Fellowship Match Task Force at NIFellowshipMatch@snisonline.org.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) takes effect on date of last signature below, by and between the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery (SNIS), a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation with its principal place of business at Fairfax, VA and _____(Name of Institution), an institution located at _____(City, State of institution). The SNIS is appointed as sponsor of the Neurointerventional Fellowship Match Program on behalf of the Neurointerventional Fellowship Match Task Force (the Task Force), in collaboration with the Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology (SVIN) and the Joint Cerebrovascular Section of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (JCVS).

1. Purpose. SNIS, in collaboration with SVIN and JCVS, formed the Task Force to evaluate how to improve the current interview and offer process for residents who apply to neurointerventional fellowship programs. This initiative led to the Task Force to collaborate with the National Resident Match Program (NRMP) to establish a Neurointerventional Fellowship Match Program (the Program). The Program, which is described more fully in the Program Summary attached hereto as Exhibit A, will allow applicants and fellowship programs an opportunity to consider options before a final commitment is made. Additionally, the Program will set a uniform date and timeline and permit residents to apply one year before entering a fellowship. Participating fellowship programs must (1) be accredited or affiliated with an ACGME residency program, (2) sign a sponsorship agreement with the NRMP's timeframe, and (3) provide SNIS with the letters of commitment and endorsement set forth in Exhibit B hereto. The MOU establishes the parties' responsibilities regarding this educational initiative.
2. No Offers Commitment. Participating programs must agree not to make any offers to applicants for the 2027 fellowship year outside the match process. This policy provides fellowship candidates with fair and equal access to the full range of training opportunities before making a final decision and provides training programs with an equitable system to evaluate candidates on an orderly and transparent schedule. Participating programs may interview candidates starting on **December 1, 2025**, but an offer may not be extended outside of the Match.
3. Term and Termination. Programs must enter this MOU by **December 15, 2023**. The MOU will expire upon the completion of the initial match under the Program. At any time, the parties may extend and/or modify the MOU beyond the initial term.
4. Miscellaneous. The parties intend for this MOU to be a binding agreement. This MOU constitutes the entire understanding and agreement between the parties. Additions or amendments must be in writing and signed by both parties. This MOU may not be assigned by either party without the prior written consent of the other party. The parties may execute this MOU by counterparts.

5. Understanding. All individuals signing this MOU represent their respective parties and have authority to sign this MOU on such parties' behalf.

AGREED TO BY:

Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery

Mahesh Jayaraman, MD
President

Date

Institution: _____

Signature

Date

Name & Title

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Neurointerventional Fellowship Match Summary

Exhibit B: Letter of Commitment and ACGME DIO Endorsement

Neurointerventional Fellowship Match
Neurointerventional Fellowship Program Letter of Commitment

As Director of the current Neurointerventional Fellowship Program at _____, I am writing to support the efforts to form a national match program for our training in our field. Fellowships in Neurointervention have traditionally been filled through individual applications to the programs directly. This had led to a disorganized and noncentralized system that has been difficult for prospective fellows to navigate. A uniform entrance match for all certified neurointerventional fellowship programs would provide more access to prospective trainees and would help ensure that training programs consistently fill with competitive applicants. We will commit to offer all our available fellowship positions in accordance with our participation in the neurointerventional fellowship match program conducted by the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP).

Program Information

I reviewed the proposed structure of the match process and agree with the efforts to organize its initiation. I confirm that our fellowship program would like to participate in the Neurointerventional Fellowship Match.

Our fellowship program is

- Accredited by ACGME / NESAC (CAST)
- Not currently accredited by ACGME / NESAC (CAST)

Our program currently offers _____ fellowship positions per year.
Our program's training positions are filled through the class starting in _____.

For the first Match, for the Class starting fellowship in July 2027, our program will be offering
 0 1 2 Other: _____ fellowship positions.

Sincerely,

Program Director signature

Print Program Director Name

Date

Programs: Please (1) complete and share this form with your institutional DIO; and (2) return a copy of this form **by December 15, 2023** to NIFellowshipMatch@snisonline.org.

**Neurointerventional Fellowship Match
Letter to the ACGME Designated Institutional Official**

Dear ACGME Designated Institutional Official:

As Director of the current Neurointerventional Fellowship program at _____, I am reaching out to you for your support as we look to participate in the new Neurointerventional Fellowship Match through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). This is part of a nation-wide effort to organize a long-standing noncentralized system, in hopes to increase opportunity, transparency, and equitability for the prospective applicants.

Our Neurointerventional Program is certified through the

- ACGME
- Neuroendovascular Surgery Advisory Committee (NESAC / Committee on Advanced Subspecialty Training, or CAST);
- Other: _____

Our program is primarily affiliated with the following ACGME residency program:

- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Diagnostic Radiology
- Interventional Radiology

As such, the fellowship program's participation in an NRMP match is contingent upon your endorsement on behalf of our institution. Please review the statements on the following page and provide your response at your earliest convenience.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Program Director signature

Print Program Director Name

Date

Programs: Please (1) complete and share this form with your institutional DIO; and (2) return a copy of this form **by December 15, 2023** to NIFellowshipMatch@snisonline.org.

**Neurointerventional Fellowship Match
ACGME Designated Institutional Official Endorsement Letter**

Dear Neurointerventional Fellowship Program Director:

I confirm my endorsement of the Neurointerventional Fellowship program at _____, through the following attestations required by the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP):

1. As the NRMP Institutional Official, I attest that this Program is under the governance of my institution.
2. As the NRMP Institutional Official, I attest that I have oversight of the Neurointerventional Fellowship Program that is affiliated with my institution. Therefore, I agree to monitor and approve all changes associated with its participation in this match.
3. As the NRMP Institutional Official, I further attest that an affiliation agreement for this non-ACGME-accredited Program is currently on file and available to the NRMP.
4. I understand that failure to agree to questions 2 and 3 will prevent the Neurointerventional Fellowship program from participating in the Neurointerventional Fellowship Match.

I attest to all the above statements.

I am unable to confirm my attestation to the above statements.

Designated Institutional Official signature

Designated Institutional Official Name

Date

Programs: Please (1) complete and share this form with your institutional DIO; and (2) return a copy of this form **by December 15, 2023** to NIFellowshipMatch@snisonline.org.