The Early Specialization Committee objectives are to delineate focus areas and issues specific to Integrated Six year and 4/3 residents.

To accomplish these objectives, the Committee has formulated an all-inclusive survey separated into clinical, academic, training (didactic, operative, and simulation), and cultural categories as well as possible organizational issues such as the interview process. This survey will be modified and divided into two separate surveys to improve data accuracy as well as to prevent survey fatigue. One survey will be sent to the I-6 and 4/3 residents and a separate survey will be sent to the programs themselves (Program Directors and Program Coordinators).

The Committee proposes to modify the survey for the traditional and non-ACGME fellows to utilize their responses and training experiences as a baseline comparative to delineate: 1) Issues specific to Early Specialization and 2) Issues in common with Traditional residents.

The primary objective of these surveys is to identify issues that residents and programs find important. Analysis of this data could then be utilized to address both common and specific issues in Early Specialization Programs. These analyses could also be utilized to develop tracking metrics.

The Committee has delineated the following strategy to carry out these objectives:

1. The Committee will send a letter to all Program Directors in February informing them that a survey will be sent to them and their residents on behalf of the TSDA Early Specialization Committee. The letter will request the Program Directors to encourage their residents to complete the survey promptly.

2. The Committee will send the survey to all Cardiothoracic Integrated 6 and 4/3 residents in April.

The Early Specialization Committee will update the TSDA Executive Committee with the focused data obtained from residents and programs.