**Thoracic Surgery Directors Association  
Congenital Cardiac Surgery Fellowship Committee**January 26, 2024

4:15-5:15pm Central

Grand Hyatt San Antonio, Bonham B

San Antonio, Texas

**DRAFT Minutes**

**Participants:**

Chair: Stephanie Fuller, MD  
Members: Neil Cambronero, MD

Pirooz Eghtesady, MD

Andrew Goldstone, MD

Cynthia Herrington, MD

James Jaggers, MD

Tara Karamlou, MD

Richard Mainwaring, MD

David Mauchley, MD

John Mayer, MD

Victor Morell, MD  
James O’Brien, MD

Jennifer Romano, MD

David Winlaw, MD

**TSDA Staff:**Adam Doty, Executive Director  
Gracie Martin, TSDA Coordinator

1. **Call to Order and Disclosure Statement**

Dr. Fuller called the meeting to order at 4:14pm, read the disclosure statement, and introduced attendees.

Dr. Fuller referred to draft minutes from May 6, 2023, in the meeting packet and asked for a motion to approve. There was a motion to approve the minutes as presented. It was seconded and approved.

**ACTION: Approved**

1. **2023 Match Results for 2024 Placements and Workforce Challenges**

Dr. Fuller indicated that there were currently seventeen congenital fellowship programs and that six programs ultimately offered six positions, of which only four were filled among 9 applicants. Not all applicants were ABTS eligible. It was noted that more programs intended to offer positions but did not submit rank lists or otherwise withdrew from the match.

Given these very limited numbers, up to thirteen programs could offer positions in 2024 for 2025 placements.

There was substantial discussion concerning potential reasons for the limited number of eligible applicants participating in the match. Some surmised that recent articles outlining the dissatisfaction for those with careers in the subspeciality could have contributed to this; others suggested it was the shift from one year of training to two. In addition, there was discussion whether an international pathway to Board certification in congenital heart surgery for international residents existed. Dr. Romano confirmed that there was not an international pathway for Congenital specifically.

Dr. Fuller shared that the ACGME permitted up to six cycles of not filling a position before a program is put on probation. Hence programs that have not filled should feel reassure that they can continue to function and enter the match at this time.

After significant discussion, Dr. Fuller proposed that the congenital match TSDA conducts through SF Match be limited to only ACGME-eligible positions for ACGME-eligible applicants. Staff confirmed that the application form could be amended to make this clearer to applicants and to programs. All other applicants may apply for non-accredited positions after the TSDA Congenital Match is completed. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the committee. Staff will follow through on updating the match materials for the next cycle.

**ACTION: Approved**

1. **Interest in TSDA Congenital Cardiac Surgery Fellowship Committee Chair Position**

Dr. Fuller announced that her position as chair was term limited and that a new chair would need to be appointed. While the TSDA Bylaws indicate that a selection committee comprised of Drs. Fuller, Herrington, and Cooke would make the selection, Dr. Fuller solicited interest from among those present. Drs. Karamlou and Mainwaring expressed their willingness and interest.

**ACTION ITEM:** Drs. Fuller, Herrington, and Cooke would make the selection over the coming months, welcoming additional input or suggestions for candidates.

1. **Adjournment**

There being no other business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:11pm.