

Sample Candidate for Fellowship Personal Statement

Current Date

Robert C. Hyzy, MD, FCCM
Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Director, MICU
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Dear Dr. Hyzy:

This letter is my personal statement about significant contributions I have made in the following areas:

1. Collaborative Multiprofessional Practice

I am a faculty member of the Pulmonary and Critical Care Division at Regis University of Health Sciences. I practice critical care at Smithfield VA Medical Center (which is one of the teaching sites for our medical students, residents, and critical care fellows) in a modern (three years old) and fully monitored 12-bed multiprofessional intensive care unit. The unit is run by members of the Pulmonary and Critical Care Division and serves predominantly adult critically ill medical patients. I assume full responsibility for patient care and teaching for four months a year, in addition to night and weekend calls once every four weeks.

Our practice is multiprofessional, and daily rounds include critical care nurses, critical care fellows, residents, and medical students. Three times a week, rounds are interdisciplinary and include the additional participation of a doctor of pharmacy and a dietitian. Although the workload precludes additional participation of a doctor of pharmacy during rounds, they are active participants of our critical care team. In addition, there is daily interaction with faculty members of subspecialties and other services including radiology, cardiology, gastrointestinal diseases, infectious diseases, surgery, podiatry, rehabilitation medicine, speech therapists, social workers, and the clergy. I am also a member of the critical care committee that meets monthly.

2. Program Development

I was the associate program director of critical care at our university during 1990 and 1991 when I also served as ICU director at Smithfield VA Medical Center. I relinquished these positions to complete a PhD program in biophysics. Upon my return to the VA as full-time faculty, I focused my non-clinical time to the development of the small-animal research laboratory, which has now become an additional site for research training of medical students and physicians in areas related to critical care.

3. Scholarly Activities Related to Critical Care

Education:

I teach students, residents, and critical care fellows from our medical school and training programs. Specific activities include conferences to residents and medical students with focus on critical care topics (i.e., CPR, fluid resuscitation, electrolyte imbalance, hyperthermic crises, shock, hemodynamic monitoring, capnography, systemic inflammatory response, sepsis, and acute respiratory failure) and lectures to pulmonary and critical care fellows in similar critical care topics. I also participate in an introductory course in clinical medicine for third-year medical students by giving lectures and discussing case presentations. I also conduct less formal teaching at the bedside during ICU rounds with fellows, residents, and students; and during teaching rounds in the regular medical ward for residents and students (two months a year). Additional intramural activities include participation as invited lecturer at grand rounds and basic science seminars.

In connection with activities in my research laboratory (see below), medical students and physicians working as research assistants or research associates have expanded their knowledge base of cardiovascular physiology, assessment of myocardial function, and pathophysiological aspects of cardiac arrest and cardiac resuscitation. Since the beginning of my independent research activities approximately two years ago, a total of six medical students and three recently graduated physicians have worked full-time under my direct supervision for periods ranging from two to 12 months.

Research

I believe that my curriculum vitae reflects a strong commitment to research on cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Of 37 peer-reviewed publications, 33 address aspects of cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Of the remaining four, three address studies in low perfusion states. A similar proportion of CPR-related topics are represented in 38 non-peer-reviewed publications and 73 abstracts. Within the last two years, I have further narrowed the research focus to study the mechanisms of post-resuscitation myocardial dysfunction.

I continue to develop as an independent academic physician. With financial support from the Regis Medical School, I set up a small-animal research laboratory on the premises of the Smithfield VA Medical Center. I developed a model of ventricular fibrillation in the isolated rat heart to continue studies on the myocardial effects of cardiac arrest. The laboratory is fully operational, and part of the work was presented at the February meeting of the Society. This work was also presented at the Annual Marion National Research Week Poster Session on June 4, 1997, and was selected as a Poster Award Winner among more than 150 posters from Haverstown University/VA hospital investigators.

4. Leadership

Early in my career (more than 12 years ago in Spain), I helped to organize a national course on hemodynamic monitoring and subsequently directed a course on emergencies in intensive care medicine. I have been invited to lecture in critical care topics at national and international scientific events. After the submission of my application, I was invited as the principal speaker at the Second Symposium on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation organized by a recently established university in Spain. I lectured on CPR-related topics and participated on a panel that addressed ethical and legal aspects of life and death decisions in critically ill patients. An additional objective of the course was to stimulate improvement of current systems for out-of-hospital resuscitation bringing together healthcare providers and community leaders. I have also been contacted by physicians from Buenos Aires, Argentina for investigations on new methods for out-of-hospital cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Development of a collaborative research effort is underway.

In addition to my participation as a reviewer for *Critical Care Medicine*, I am also an abstract reviewer for the Congress of the Society of Critical Care Medicine and an outside grant reviewer for a national foundation.

I hope I have provided sufficiently detailed information that will help decide whether my qualifications meet the requirements for Fellow of the American College of Critical Care Medicine.

Sincerely,

Candidate Name