

Fall 2007

ACGME Welcomes New CEO



Thomas J. Nasca, MD, MACP, has been named chief executive officer of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

Dr. Nasca comes to the ACGME from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia where he was dean of the Jefferson Medical College, senior vice president for academic affairs, and president of Jefferson University Physicians. Dr. Nasca is a board-certified internist and nephrologist, and brings 26 years of graduate medical education experience to the ACGME.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to join the ACGME and to succeed its outstanding and visionary leader for the past 10 years, David C. Leach, MD," said Dr. Nasca in an ACGME news release announcing his appointment. "I hope to

enhance the ACGME's legacy of excellence and sustain our commitment to improve the health of the public through outstanding graduate medical education for the future physicians of the United States."

He succeeds Dr. Leach, who retires this Fall.

September 2007 RRC Meeting Highlights

Data/Reports Subcommittee

Drs Grant, Ledford (Chair), Martin, Oren and Smith formed a subcommittee to develop ways to use data from the logs to improve accreditation decisions. Program directors should contact the executive director, Patricia Levenberg at the ACGME (plevenberg@acgme.org) with comments regarding what they would like to see in the data/reports. At the same time, the Committee decided to add CPT codes to the procedures.

FAQs Subcommittee

Drs. Green, Oren, Peden (Chair) and Smith formed a subcommittee to create ways to engage program directors during the TPD meeting to develop a frequently asked questions on the ACGME web site. The subcommittee will present recommendations to the Committee during the Feb 2008 meeting.

Election of RRC officers

By unanimous vote, Dr. Bryan Martin was reappointed Chair, effective Jan 1, 2008-Dec 31, 2009. His Vice Chair will be Dr. David Peden; Dr. Peden will serve the same two-year

term.

New “Program Director Guide to the Common Program Requirements”

To help clarify the meaning and expectations of the common program requirements, the “Program Director Guide to the Common Program Requirements” is available on www.acgme.org. RRC members, RRC staff, ACGME field staff, and program directors across specialties provided review and input to the document. The Guide will be periodically revised based on user feedback and as requirements change. Please email comments and suggestions to: Guide@acgme.org.

CILE Pilot Projects

The Committee on Innovation in the Learning Environment (CILE) recently announced a set of duty hour and competency pilots. Ingrid Philibert, Senior Vice President, Department of Field Activities, quoted from the first formal report of the committee, which was approved at the September meeting of the ACGME Board of Directors: “The ultimate aim of these pilots is to test proposed revisions to the common duty hour standards and refinements to the approaches for teaching and assessing the general competencies to ensure they are based on valid and ‘actionable’ evidence of their effectiveness.”

A listing of the pilots was sent to the Review Committee Chairs and Executive Directors (ED) in early August. Chairs are being asked to confer with their EDs to discuss which pilots would be of interest to the RRC.

Among the incentives for pilot participation are:

- waiver of selected program requirements;
- exempting programs from a site visit

during the period of the pilot (unless the program requests a site visit for a specific reason such as a request for a complement increase); and,

- contributing to improving the evidence base for the accreditation standards and process.

More information regarding the pilot projects will be available from the ACGME web site in early October. For questions, contact Mary Joyce Johnston in the Department of Field Activities at 312/755-5013.

Accreditation Data System (ADS)

By now, all program directors should be familiar with the ACGME’s online Accreditation Data System (ADS). This system alerts the RRC of changes in your program. You should update the ADS:

1. When you are notifying the RRC of a change in your program (i.e. new program director or adding or deleting a site);
2. When you are requesting a change which needs RRC approval (i.e. an increase in resident complement);
3. At the beginning of the academic year for your “Annual Update” (ADS staff will e-mail you with your deadline for updating your faculty and resident rosters); and,
4. When preparing for an upcoming site visit (the ADS will populate many sections of the PIF with the data you enter).

The ADS is also a historical resource for programs, and as repository for their recent notification letters and correspondence from the RRC.

Note that e-mail is now the ACGME’s preferred form of communication. Please ensure that your e-mail address in the ADS is correct.

To reset your password, for instructions on submitting data, or for help with completing Part

1 of the program information form, please contact the ADS representative for Allergy and Immunology, Emilio Villatoro at 312/755-7117.

Listing of New Program Directors

ADS now provides a list of new program directors reported during the current academic year. The tables are updated as changes are submitted to ADS. Note that the new list only shows changes during the current academic year only; it does not contain historical data. To view the list of new Allergy and Immunology program directors visit: www.acgme.org/adspublic.

CV Form Change

An abbreviated CV can be submitted in lieu of a full CV for new program directors. This form can be found in ADS.

General Competencies

Programs should begin to use resident performance data as a basis for improvement and to provide evidence for the accreditation review. As outlined in the Outcomes project, programs should begin to use external measures (e.g. clinical quality indicators, patient surveys, employer evaluation of graduates, national and specialty standardized measures) to verify resident and program performance levels.

Institutional Data

When completing a PIF for continued accreditation, it is no longer necessary to include the institutional data. However, all **new** applications must be accompanied by institutional data. The presentation of the institutional data with a new program application provides the Committee with information relative to the volume and variety of procedures available for resident education. In addition, programs will be asked to provide institutional data with the addition of a major participating site.

ACGME Procedure Logs

Residents must record every procedure into the procedure log system. The system permits the RRC to assess compliance with program requirements for breadth and depth of education experiences and adequacy of education in required procedures.

If a program has any problems with the system, the ACGME staff will provide assistance to get your program into compliance. All program directors should be able to use the system to orient residents. In addition, the procedure and case logs should be monitored on a regular basis.

At the time of a site visit, the field staff will ask the program director questions related to compilation, verification and consistency of the resident data collected in the program. In addition, field staff may ask the program director, faculty, residents and coordinators how they keep the records.

Resident Surveys

The ACGME has started to survey programs every other year. Programs with greater than four active residents are required to participate. The questions are refined based on feedback and changing common program requirements. Please note that the survey is not linked with a program's site visit. However, the site visitor will have access to the last resident survey at the time of the site visit and verify its results. Program directors can access the responses, in aggregate, as well. For questions related to the resident survey, contact us at ResSurvey@acgme.org

Notable Practices

In support of the ACGME's initiative for increased and timely communication with program directors and Designated Institutional Officials, the RRC for Allergy and Immunology is posting on its web site the notable practices of programs that have been identified at the time of a program review. These notable practices include goals and objectives,

curricula, block diagrams and lectures.

ACGME Educational Conference 2008

Save the date for the ACGME Annual Educational Conference. It will be held Feb 28 through Mar 1, 2008 in Grapevine, Texas. This conference is extremely helpful for new program directors and residency coordinators and anyone new to the accreditation process.

Program Director's Meeting

Sponsored by the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI), the Program Director's Meeting will be held Jan 11-13, 2008 in New Orleans, LA. Patricia Levenberg, PhD will be available for individual appointments with program directors. Please contact the AAAAI for an appointment schedule.

RRC Meeting and Agenda Closing Date

In order to ensure an orderly and efficient RRC meeting, we must establish cut-off dates for requested agenda items. Please note these deadlines if you have submissions for future RRC meetings; the dates and deadlines are as follows:

Meeting: February 22-23, 2008

Agenda Closing: December 28, 2007

The staff understand that emergencies occur and we will be sensitive to your needs in these situations. However, routine agenda items will be held for the next meeting after these cut-off dates.

Mailing Address:

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We invite your comments:

plevenberg@acgme.org

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