

RRC NEWS

ALLERGY AND IMMUNOLOGY



Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

APRIL 2009

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RRC STAFF

PATRICIA B. LEVENBERG, PHD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
312/755-5048
PLEVENBERG@ACGME.ORG

EILEEN ANTHONY, MJ
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
312/755-5047
EANTHONY@ACGME.ORG

LINDA ROQUET
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
312/755-5494
LROQUET@ACGME.ORG

ACGME
515 N STATE ST
STE 2000
CHICAGO, IL 60654
WWW.ACGME.ORG

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Coding of Procedures

The Committee asks that all program directors review the materials on the ACGME website (http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/RRC_020/020_ICD9Codes.pdf)

related to coding both diagnoses and procedures. All attending faculty and residents should have a clear understanding of these categories and patients, and procedures should be reviewed frequently so that coding will be consistent and accurate. At the same time, it is imperative that the program directors must monitor the fellow's logs for accuracy, and depth and breadth of the Allergy and Immunology scope of practice. Program requirements mandate the monitoring of the logs at least semiannually.

FAQs for Programs

The Committee is developing a set of FAQs for the website. The answers should help clarify program requirements and other nuances related to the specialty. More information will be announced as it is available.

New Members

Two new members, Jay Portnoy, MD and David Huston, MD have joined the Committee effective June 2009. Laurie Smith, MD and Andrew Grant, MD will leave the Committee after six years of service.

Minor Revision to Program Requirements

A minor revision was made to the program requirements that went into effect on April 7, 2009. The specific change was related to the number of residents and is as follows:

B. Number of Residents

The program director may not appoint more residents than approved by the Review Committee, unless otherwise stated in the specialty-specific requirements. The program's educational resources must be adequate to support the number of residents appointed to the program.

- 1. The Review Committee for Allergy and Immunology does not approve a specific number of resident positions. At the time of program review, the Committee will judge the adequacy of the program's resources to support the number of resident positions proposed.*

MEETING AND AGENDA CLOSING DATES

Meeting:	Sept 11-12, 2009
Agenda Closing:	July 27, 2009
Meeting:	Feb 5-6, 2010
Agenda Closing:	Dec 14, 2009

The next date for the revision of the program requirements is July 2012.

Extending the Term of Chair

At its February 2009 meeting, the ACGME Board of Directors approved revisions to the Manual of Policies and Procedures that included changing the name of the ACGME Council of Review Committee Chairs to the ACGME Council of Review Committees (CRC) and extending the term length of Review Committee Chairs from two years to three years (Manual, pg 36) including endorsement of the implementation of the transition plan.

The primary rationale for these changes is to facilitate greater interaction and improved communication with the ACGME Board of Directors by helping ensure institutional memory as the Council undertakes its initiatives through the coming years. Under the scope of its redesign, the CRC also structured three subcommittees: Standardization, Innovation, and Common Program Requirements and identified three specialty groups – Surgical, Medical, Hospital-based and Ancillary. These subcommittees and sections will become pivotal to the CRC in accomplishing its work.

2009 Resident Survey

The 2009 ACGME Resident Survey started in January and will conclude in June 2009. Programs can get the results of the survey two days after the date of the reporting window, and if 70 percent of the residents complete the survey. This version of the resident survey has specialty-specific questions for the fellows to answer. All questions on the resident survey relate to specific program requirements.

Notable Practices

The RRC has identified examples of educational materials and activities at programs and institutions that might be useful to other programs. These are listed on the RRC Webpage under "[Notable Practices](#)". The Committee will continue to identify and post notable practices to its website. Please note that though the RC has reviewed and approved a notable practice, and posted it to the website, the RC is not endorsing the practice. Instead, the RC is offering the practice as a shared resource.

Program Requirements Revision Process

The ACGME requires that each set of program requirements undergo major revision at least once every five years. Approximately 18 months before the scheduled date of the next major revision for a particular set of requirements, the ACGME's Requirement

Development Committee (RDC) reviews the existing requirements and program information form (PIF) and provides feedback to the Review Committee regarding potential areas for improvement. The Review Committee considers the RDC suggestions and also updates the requirements and PIF as needed based on input from the medical community. The revised requirements and PIF are then submitted to the RDC for consideration. Upon approval from the RDC, the revised requirements are posted, along with an impact statement on the ACGME website; program directors and DIOs are notified through the ACGME weekly e-Communication that the proposed requirements are available for review and comment for a period of 45 days. At the conclusion of the review and comment period, the Review Committee reviews the comments submitted in response to the proposed requirements, considers whether additional changes to the requirements are needed in response to the comments, and prepares the final draft of the requirements for submission to the ACGME Board of Directors. A summary of the submitted comments and the Review Committee's response to these comments must accompany the requirements when they are submitted to the Board. Upon approval by the ACGME Board, the new requirements are posted to the ACGME website, along with the effective date. Program directors and DIOs are notified through the ACGME e-Communication.

2009 ACGME Annual Educational Conference: Keynote speaker K. Anders Ericsson, PhD

The 2009 ACGME Annual Educational Conference took place March 5-8 at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas. About 1,400 program directors, program coordinators, designated institutional officials, and others involved in graduate medical education attended the sold-out conference.

Dr. Ericsson, the Conradi Eminent Scholar and a professor of psychology at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla., presented his keynote address, "The Making of Superior Doctors through Deliberate Practice: What Can We Learn from the Training of Chess Masters, Elite Athletes and Musicians" on March 7. He discussed how the study of optimal training techniques for chess players, athletes, and musicians can be applied to the education of residents.

Dr. Ericsson noted that excellence in a certain field requires solid fundamentals and that excellence is a result of deliberate practice. He described deliberate practice as "individualized training activities designed by a coach or teacher to improve specific aspects of

an individual's performance through repetition and successive refinement." This sort of training has a dramatic effect on performance.

It's also important for individuals to challenge themselves by putting themselves in harder and harder situations. Dr. Ericsson observed that "Elite athletes always are trying to do the things they cannot yet do, which means they will fall and fail more. Failure is linked to stretching one self's to do what you cannot yet do."

In medicine, simulators are a good way for physicians to challenge themselves by trying out new procedures and techniques. Simulators allow residents to try things they couldn't do with real patients and they allow residents to train themselves when they you are ready to train and stretch themselves.

The 2010 ACGME Annual Educational Conference will be held March 4-7 at the Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, Tenn.

2010 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award

The ACGME recognizes that program directors face many challenges in administering a residency program. Those finding innovative ways to teach residents and to provide quality health care while remaining connected to the initial impulse to care for others in this environment should be celebrated.

The application form may be downloaded from the ACGME website and emailed along with support letters and curriculum vitae to: Emily Vasiliou at evasiliou@acgme.org. The deadline is Wednesday, July 1, 2009, by 5:00 p.m. CST. Nominations received after that date will not be accepted.

A total of ten program directors will be selected and each program director will receive a check for \$1,000 and a plaque. Travel expenses will be paid by the ACGME for each recipient and a guest to travel to the ACGME Annual Educational Conference in Nashville, Tennessee to receive their award. Award recipients will also be invited to attend a special physician formation retreat in May 2010.

Selections will be made by the ACGME Awards Committee at its September 2009 meeting; afterwards, the ACGME CEO will notify the recipients. The recipients will be acknowledged at the March 2010 ACGME Annual Educational Conference. Award recipients will also be invited to attend a special retreat in May 2010.

Award announcements will be published in a press release and the ACGME Bulletin, as well as posted on the ACGME website.

If you have any questions, you may contact Emily at evasiliou@acgme.org or by phone at 312/755-7486.