

RRC NEWS

RADIATION ONCOLOGY



Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

APRIL 2009

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RRC STAFF

LINDA E. THORSEN, MA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

312.755.5029

LMT@ACGME.ORG

STEPHEN MOORE

ACCREDITATION ADMINISTRATOR

312.755.5045

SMOORE@ACGME.ORG

ACGME

515 N STATE ST

STE 2000

CHICAGO, IL 60654

MEETING AND AGENDA CLOSING DATES

MEETING: MARCH 22-23, 2010

AGENDA CLOSING: JANUARY 15

MEETING: SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2010

AGENDA CLOSING: JULY 15

RRC NEWS IS A BIENNIAL PUBLICATION THAT PROVIDES REVIEW COMMITTEE AND ACGME UPDATES. PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR FOR SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER: KREINHOLD@ACGME.ORG.

New RRC Members

The RRC welcomed two new members at the March 2009 RRC meeting. Katherine L. Griem, MD and Lynn D. Wilson, MD, MPH will begin their tenure on the RRC for Radiation Oncology on July 1, 2009 for a six-year term.

Dr. Griem is currently a Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology, Rush University Medical Center, and she also serves as Chair of the Cancer Committee.

Dr. Wilson is currently the Clinical Director and Vice Chairman of the Department of Therapeutic Radiology at the Yale University School of Medicine and program director of the Radiation Oncology residency; he is actively involved in ongoing clinical research, teaching, and clinical care.

Completing RRC Terms: Dr. Larry Kun, Dr. Christopher Willett on June 30, 2009

The RRC expressed appreciation to both Dr. Larry E. Kun and Dr. Christopher G. Willett for their contributions to the Committee during their tenure on the RRC.

New Electronic PIF Developed for Radiation Oncology

by Bruce G. Haffty, MD, RRC Chair

New program requirements for radiation oncology, effective January 2009, are available on the RRC webpage at: http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/RRC_430/430_prIndex.asp. The program requirements underwent minor changes, and these changes were highlighted in our last newsletter (available here: http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/RRC_430/News/430n_Index.asp).

In conjunction with the development of the new program requirements, a new electronic program information form (e-PIF) for radiation oncology was also developed. This new e-PIF can be completed online and has two distinct sections. The first is the "Common PIF". This section asks for responses to prior citations, major program changes, participating sites, faculty roster and CVs, resident complement, and evaluations and duty hours. This section is common to ALL programs regardless of specialty. The next section is the "Specialty (Radiation Oncology) Specific." This is the section that asks radiation oncology related questions concerning the six General Competencies, program equipment, IT and space, imaging examinations, resident educational experiences and rotations, and scholarly activities. Each section has text boxes, some of which work like mini-word processors, check boxes, charts to type in information

and statistics, and drop down menus. Some information is prepopulated by the ACGME using the data that programs have previously entered during the ADS annual update. For example, in the section that requests information regarding other residency programs and/or fellowships available at your institution, this information is pre-populated electronically from information already available about institutional data in ADS. Similarly, the table of the summary logs of the residents can quickly be generated from the electronic resident log data.

The end result is that the source document of the specialty-specific e-PIF was reduced from 28 pages to approximately 12 pages, which we hope will translate into decreased time and effort on the part of program directors and coordinators when filling out the e-PIF in preparation for site reviews.

The specialty-specific PIF in Radiation Oncology was recently completed, and the committee continues to work with the ACGME staff in modifying the document so that the process of filling out the form is as efficient and clear as possible. Program directors are encouraged to communicate to the ACGME areas where the PIF is unclear or with any other suggestions by contacting Stephen Moore, smoore@acgme.org.

ADS: Case Log Reports

by W. Robert Lee, MD

In the last five years, the ACGME has devoted considerable energy and resources to developing the ACGME website (www.acgme.org). One component of the website that program directors should know about is the on-line reporting system, known as the Accreditation Data System or ADS. Program Directors are responsible for annually verifying/updating critical accreditation program information (including case logs) and keeping resident records current. The ACGME sends information about deadlines annually. The link is on left sidebar of the ACGME homepage and on the Program Directors & Coordinators page.

One element that I have found particularly helpful is the Case Log Report. Once a program director has signed into the ADS program, it is possible to obtain comprehensive information about resident case numbers from across the country. This allows the program director to compare the residents' experience in her/his program with the experience of other residents in all programs.

I have used this information as part of a systematic,

annual program review that is part of the current Program Requirements (Section V.C.1). In particular, if I find that the overall resident experience in a particular disease site is below the national average, then I increase the didactic teaching in that area to make sure that our residents have sufficient instruction. I have also used a comparison of our residents' experience with national averages to make the case to my GME office that our program is "above average".

I encourage program directors to explore the information within ADS. I am confident that this easily accessible information can be used to improve your program.

Revisions to Frequently Asked Questions

An RRC subcommittee has completed revisions to the Radiation Oncology FAQs. One of the primary purposes of an FAQ document is to clarify the RRC's expectations regarding potentially confusing or unclear program requirements. There are a number of editorial changes, as well as new additions to the FAQs that address the program requirements that became effective on January 1, 2009. A few of these new topics are:

- Program Director Administrative Time
- Integrated Sites
- Radiation / Cancer Biologist
- Observed Cases
- Radiosurgery Requirement

The FAQs are located here: http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/RRC_430/430_FAQ.asp.

We would appreciate your feedback on these revisions and encourage any suggestions for topics to address in the future. Please submit comments or requests to Stephen Moore, smoore@acgme.org.

Extending the Term of RRC 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 ini-

tatives 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.

Institute of Medicine Duty Hour Report

In 2003, the ACGME implemented common duty hour standards for the more than 100,000 residents in approximately 8,500 ACGME-accredited residency programs in 127 specialties and subspecialties. The standards were created to optimize resident learning, resident well-being, and patient safety. Over the past five years, the ACGME has aggressively enforced the standards and monitored compliance through site visits, review of program data, confidential resident surveys, and interviews with residents. Detailed aggregate data on compliance and enforcement of the duty hour standards can be viewed at www.acgme.org/acWebsite/dutyhours/dh_index.asp.

The ACGME is appreciative of the work done by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to study the impact of the common duty hour standards on resident learning, resident well-being, and patient safety. In early March 2009, at the Annual Educational Conference, the ACGME hosted a duty hour session that brought together leaders in graduate medical education from around the world. The conference participants reviewed the IOM report as part of discussions on possible refinements to the duty hour standards.

Accreditation Data System

The ACGME's online ADS alerts the RRC to changes in programs. Program directors should update ADS to:

- Notify the RRC of any changes in their program (i.e., new program director or adding or deleting a site)
 - Request a change which needs RRC approval (i.e., an increase in resident complement)
 - Submit the academic year "Annual Update" (ADS staff will e-mail the deadline for updating faculty and resident rosters)
 - Prepare for an upcoming site visit (the ADS will populate many sections of the PIF with the data entered)
- Address your questions or concerns about ADS to the ADS representative at ADS@acgme.org.

2010 ACGME Educational Conference

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