

Spring/Summer 2008

## ACGME Resident Survey

Every two years, all programs with four or more residents complete the ACGME Resident Survey. Results of this survey are made available to the program and the DIO for programs with a 70% or greater response rate. Programs with less than 70% response rates are resurveyed the following year.

The Resident Survey is used by the site visitor to spotlight key areas of concern as well as program strengths that the residents identified; the site visitor also uses the Resident Survey to help determine serious non-compliance with duty hour standards. Increasingly, the residents learning environment is noted as one of many key factors, along with duty hours, supervision, and limiting excessive service, that contribute to a high-quality learning environment.

The RRC has requested that site visitors provide more detailed information regarding the verification of negative comments made in the numerical or comment sections of the Resident Survey, specifically, when the site visitor records that a concern is “not an issue” or “could not be verified.”

Results of resident surveys can be used as heuristic tools by program directors to improve the quality of training for residents. National averages of resident surveys can be viewed on the ACGME website, [www.acgme.org](http://www.acgme.org) within the ADS section,

and should be reviewed by individual programs during annual and mid-cycle internal reviews so that resident issues are identified and addressed in a timely manner.

## Program Citations: 2003-2008

Over the recent 5-year period (7/1/2003 - 5/30/2008), the RRC noted that the most commonly cited medical genetics requirements were patient care, program evaluation, and goals and objectives; the most common citations for molecular genetic pathology were resident evaluation and patient care. The list below provides the percentage of citations, as well as further citation details.

### Medical Genetics

Total citations =137

- Patient Care (21.9%)
- Evaluation of program (10.95%)
- Goals and Objectives (10.22%)

### Molecular Genetic Pathology,

Total citations =12

- Evaluation of Residents (25%)
- Patient care (16.67%) with respect to the manner in which cases were reviewed; time and manner of fellow supervision.

## Program Evaluation by Fellows: Keeping Responses Confidential When There is Only One Fellow

The ACGME requirement that fellows provide confidential evaluations of the program can be a challenge for programs with fewer than two

fellows. Across specialties, program directors have arrived at creative methods that manage to maintain confidentiality of fellows. Fellow surveys may be collected over a period of a few years and grouped data is reported every two to three years. The program director's challenge is to balance the program's need for feedback in order to make necessary adjustments towards program improvements versus fellow confidentiality that can result in delays of valuable feedback and program improvements. Additionally, a faculty member of another specialty or the DIO, (not directly involved in fellow training), may review and report findings of fellow surveys across all specialties to respective program directors.

### **Medical Biochemical Genetics**

The new program requirements for medical biochemical genetics were approved in July 1<sup>st</sup> 2007. Two new programs were accredited in April 2008.

### **Joint Conference in San Antonio, TX**

On April 8-9, 2008, The Association of Professors in Human Medical Genetics (APHMG) and the Program Directors of Medical Genetics joined their annual respective conferences. Both groups report approval of the combined format and noted the added benefit of greater efficiency and ease in the flow of communication between the needs of program directors and faculty involved in graduate medical education of medical genetics.

### **Description of a DIO**

DIO refers to the Designated Institutional Official. This individual has the authority and responsibility for all ACGME-accredited GME programs in an institution. The DIO signs PIFs and also receives copies of accreditation results. The DIO is required to co-sign most correspondence between the

institution and the ACGME.

### **“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](http://www.acgme.org). RRC members, RRC staff, ACGME field staff, and program directors across specialties all provided review and input. The Guide will be regularly revised based on user feedback and as requirements change. Please email comments and suggestions to: [Guide@acgme.org](mailto:Guide@acgme.org).

### **Accreditation Data System (ADS)**

In order to decrease the burden of paper submissions and increase efficiency of communications between the ACGME and constituents of Graduate Medical Education, the ACGME has transitioned from a paper-based system to a web-based system through greater use of the ADS or Web Ads, <https://www.acgme.org/ads>. The following changes must be entered in web ADS:

- Request for a temporary or permanent complement increase or decrease
- Change of chair, DIO or program director
- Voluntary Withdrawal
- Add or delete participating sites
- Update Program Information Form
- Update Resident Information
- Case Log Reporting

### **ACGME Educational Conference 2008 Recap**

Each year the ACGME Annual Educational Conference provides a venue for graduate medical educators to learn more about the accreditation process and ways to enhance

residency program quality related to ACGME initiatives such as competency evaluation instruments and exemplary implementation of ACGME initiatives. This year's conference theme, "building community, improving quality" emphasized how education and patient care can improve when individuals in diverse roles synergize toward shared goals.

Post-conference information is available at: [http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/meetings/me\\_EducConf\\_08.asp](http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/meetings/me_EducConf_08.asp)

Save the date for the 2009 ACGME Annual Educational Conference, March 5-8, in Grapevine, TX.

### **ACGME Learning Portfolio**

ACGME staff have developed a number of resources for programs that want to become more familiar with the ACGME Learning Portfolio (ALP).

[http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/portfolio/cbpac\\_faq.pdf](http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/portfolio/cbpac_faq.pdf): The Frequently Asked

Questions (FAQs) (updated April 2008) include a description of the portfolio and its benefits to both residents and program directors, in addition to common concerns about using an online portfolio system. An updated timeline for development provides additional information on the alpha and beta testing phases.

[http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/portfolio/cbpac\\_revisedtimeline.pdf](http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/portfolio/cbpac_revisedtimeline.pdf). A narrated

demonstration of the portfolio can be found at

<http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/portfolio/AlphaDemonstration.wmv>.

More information is available on the ACGME Learning Portfolio website:

[http://www.acgme.org/acwebsite/portfolio/learn\\_cbpac.asp](http://www.acgme.org/acwebsite/portfolio/learn_cbpac.asp)

### **CI Pilot Projects**

The Committee on Innovation (CI) announced a set of duty hour and

competency pilots in Fall 2007. Ingrid Philibert, Senior Vice President, Department of Field Activities, quoted from the first formal report of the committee, which was approved at the September 2007 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."

More information regarding the pilot projects is available from the ACGME website under Innovation/CI. For questions, contact Mary Joyce Johnston in the Department of Field Activities at 312/755-5013.

### **RRC Meeting and Agenda Closing Dates**

Meeting: September 13<sup>th</sup> 2008  
 Agenda Closing: July 10<sup>th</sup> 2008

Mailing Address:  
 RRC for Medical Genetics  
 ACGME  
 515 North State St., Suite 2000  
 Chicago, IL 60654

We invite your comments: [gda@acgme.org](mailto:gda@acgme.org)

### **Breakdown of Residents/Fellows and Programs**

2006-2007	Total Number	Average Length of Cycle	Number of Programs	Number of New Programs	Female/Male %
Residents/Residencies	84	3.36	48	3	56/42
Fellows/Fellowships	18	4.07	18	3	44/44

### **ACGME Welcomes New Executive Director**

Georgia D. Andrianopoulos, PhD, has been named Executive Director of the review committees for Dermatology, Medical Genetics,

and Pathology.

Dr. Andrianopoulos was an assistant professor in the department of surgery and psychiatry at the University of Illinois College of Medicine where she was involved in undergraduate and graduate medical education and research.

Dr. Andrianopoulos is a neuroscientist and earned her PhD in neurophysiologic psychology from Case Western Reserve University. In addition, Dr. Andrianopoulos is the author of *Retrain Your Brain, Reshape Your Body*. (McGraw-Hill, 2008).

She is particularly focused on generating and implementing ACGME innovations that promote the quality of graduate medical education and public health.



## **Residency Review Committee**

John W. Belmont, MD, PhD  
Mira B. Irons, MD, *Vice Chair*  
Kristine M. King, MD  
Bruce R. Korf, MD, PhD, *Chair*  
Cynthia M. Powell, MD  
Nathaniel H. Robin, MD  
Howard M. Saal, MD

## **RRC Staff**

Georgia D. Andrianopoulos, PhD  
Executive Director  
[gda@acgme.org](mailto:gda@acgme.org)

Billy Hart  
Senior Accreditation Administrator  
[bhart@acgme.org](mailto:bhart@acgme.org)

Jenny Blomgren  
Accreditation Assistant  
[jblomgren@acgme.org](mailto:jblomgren@acgme.org)