



# Memorandum

July 31, 2008

To: Program Directors, Neurological Surgery Programs

From: Ralph Dacey, MD,  
Chairman, RRC for Neurological Surgery

Subject: Restructuring Neurological Surgery Programs

I am pleased to inform you that that the Review Committee has obtained approval from the ACGME to integrate the PGY1 year into neurosurgery programs under the direction and control of neurosurgery program directors. This is the culmination of several planning meetings among leaders from neurosurgery stakeholder groups, including the SNS, AANS, and the ABNS. Everyone agrees that this change is essential for neurosurgery to ensure that residents, who now will match directly into neurosurgery, become immediately acclimated with the requisite and fundamental skills associated with neurosurgery education. The following components are essential for programs to implement beginning July 1, 2009:

1. Each program must designate the training period as either PGY 1-6, or PGY 1-7.
2. Both formats include the year of acquisition of fundamental clinical skills. The PGY 1-7 format is specifically available to programs organized to provide 12 research months (which can be interspersed at specified times during the residency). This will correct the problem of programs not being able to enter residents who are assigned to the lab into the ACGME Accreditation Data System (ADS).
3. Programs should identify educational goals and objectives for each rotation.
4. Program organization: During the first year of education, residents must have a minimum of three months of structured rotations in general patient care to include rotations in surgery, critical care, trauma, and other related rotations as determined by the program director. Residents should have a maximum of six months of neurological surgery. During the first 36 months of education, residents must have a minimum of three months of structured education in an ACGME-accredited neurology program. The program must provide 42 months of clinical neurological surgery at the sponsoring institution or one of its approved participating sites. A minimum of 21 months of neurological surgery education must occur at the sponsoring institution.

Integration of PGY1 represents an important transition for neurosurgery. Programs and institutions are expected to meet this requirement. If you have questions regarding implementation, contact me or Larry Sulton (312.755.5027) in the Review Committee office.