

RRC NEWS

NUCLEAR MEDICINE



ACGME

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

MARCH 2010

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RRC STAFF

MISSY FLEMING, PhD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
312.755.5043
MFLEMING@ACGME.ORG

NORMA R. DE YAGCIER
SENIOR ACCREDITATION ADMINISTRATOR
312.755.5042
NRDEYAGCIER@ACGME.ORG

ACGME

515 NORTH STATE STREET
SUITE 2000
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60654
WWW.ACGME.ORG

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THE EDITOR WITH SUGGESTIONS OR
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MSCHWAB@ACGME.ORG.

Updating Program Requirements – It's a Process

At the fall 2008 meeting, some members of the Review Committee expressed an interest in updating the Program Requirements for Nuclear Medicine. The initial assumption was that a few edits would be sufficient to complete this update. However, a brief conversation with the ACGME's Requirements Development Committee clarified that the Committee's proposed changes in fact constituted a major revision. The Committee has committed to a substantive revision of the current requirements, following the ACGME's standard process for such revisions. A small working group was formed, and met during the summer of 2009 to draft the new requirements. An iterative process ensued through which Committee members provided feedback on the proposed requirements. The proposed requirements were announced in the ACGME's September 14, 2009 *e-Communication*, followed by the 45-day public comment period. At the end of the public comment period, feedback from the GME community was summarized and addressed, beginning in December 2009. Based on these comments, the Committee adjusted the proposed requirements to reflect some wording changes, in addition to making accommodations for educational experiences that take place in departments of radiology.

Revising program requirements does not take place in a vacuum. These changes are reflected in a revised Program Information Form (PIF) and an updated set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). In addition to the new requirements, an Impact Statement that accompanies the proposed new requirements, the updated PIF, a summary of public comments with changes that address the comments, and the new FAQs will be presented to the ACGME's Committee on Requirements at the fall 2010 meeting in Chicago. If approved at that point, the new Program Requirements for Nuclear Medicine will become effective July 1, 2011.

The proposed new Program Requirements for Nuclear Medicine include numerous changes and some reorganization of the current requirements. The proposed revisions are evident in the sections addressing definition of the specialty, Program Director qualifications, educational program, competencies, supervision, and expectations for residents at the NM1, NM2, and NM3 levels. As soon as the new document is approved by the ACGME Committee on Requirements, it will be forwarded to the ACGME Board of Directors for final approval, following which the new Program Requirements for Nuclear Medicine will be posted on the Review Committee's webpage, noting their effective date. At that time, the former requirements will be archived for reference.

MEETING AND AGENDA CLOSING DATES

MEETING:	MAY 7, 2010
AGENDA CLOSING:	MARCH 31, 2010
MEETING:	NOVEMBER 5, 2010
AGENDA CLOSING:	SEPTEMBER 17, 2010

Learning Portfolios

The proposed revisions to the Program Requirements for Nuclear Medicine augment the Practice-based Learning and Improvement competency by including a learning portfolio for residents. That is, residents will be expected to develop skills and habits to be able to evaluate their personal practice utilizing scientific evidence, best practices, and/or self-assessment programs or modules for practice improvement. This reflective process must be demonstrated as part of an individual learning plan in each resident's learning portfolio.

Resident learning portfolios offer residents an opportunity to reflect on and evaluate their own performance with the goal of practice improvement. The ACGME has been developing and testing learning portfolios for several years. Information about this initiative is available through the ACGME website. Links to this website, a pertinent radiology article, and frequently asked questions, are listed here. Program Directors are encouraged to consult this information prior to the implementation date for the new requirements.

www.acgme.org/acWebsite/portfolio/learn_alp_news.asp

www.acgme.org/acWebsite/portfolio/news/ARRS_article_10_09_ED_PA_10_29_09.pdf

www.acgme.org/acWebsite/portfolio/learn_alp_faqs.asp

Nuclear Medicine Case Logs

The updated Program Requirements for Nuclear Medicine will include a stipulation that residents must enter their case log data into the ACGME Resident Case Log System. The launch of this system is taking place in a series of phases which started with Review Committee member identification of required procedures. At that point, the ACGME Data Systems and Analysis staff built a program designed to track resident experiences. The new system will be pilot tested by several Nuclear Medicine programs to ensure that the reporting needs for residents and program directors are met. A tutorial will be available for residents and programs so that they can gain familiarity with the system before entering their data. As these phases are completed, information about the new system will be described in a future newsletter.

Requests for Voluntary Withdrawal Must be Done through ADS

ACGME policy permits a program or sponsoring institution to request voluntary withdrawal of accreditation when a decision has been made by that program or institution to discontinue participation in ACGME accreditation. Requests for voluntary withdrawal of accreditation must be submitted using the Accreditation Data System (ADS). Review Committee staff will not accept letters requesting this action sent directly to them. The program director initiates the request within ADS by answering a series of questions, including: the proposed effective date which should coincide with the end of the current academic year; the reason for program closure; and a plan to place all active residents in other programs. Once submitted, ADS automatically generates an e-mail to the sponsoring institution's Designated Institutional Official (DIO) requesting approval. Once the DIO approves the request, ADS notifies the Review Committee staff. After a staff member processes the request, the program director and DIO receive official notification, and the accreditation status is changed to voluntary withdrawal.

DIO approval of this request for voluntary withdrawal of the program finalizes the request, which means the program:

1. may not accept new residents/fellows
2. may not request "reversal" of the action (regardless of the proposed effective date)

The program may seek re-accreditation at a future date by undergoing the application process pursuant to ACGME policy. See "How to Apply for Accreditation in Seven Easy Steps" on the Program Director & Program Coordinator area of the ACGME Website (www.acgme.org/acWebsite/home/Accreditation_Application_Process.asp) for an overview.

New Format for Citations

The results of accreditation decisions made by the Nuclear Medicine RRC are communicated through a Letter of Notification (LON) which is posted in ADS. The LONs include some additional information that is intended to standardize and clarify the component of each citation. The “Citations” – areas of non-compliance that the RRC identified during its review of a program – have a new format. Citations now have the following five components:

- 1) Citation Heading – summary of issue being cited
- 2) Program Requirement
- 3) Program Requirement Reference
- 4) Citation
- 5) PIF, Site Visitor Report, or Board Reference (if proposed adverse action)

An Example of New Citation Format Using a Common Program Requirement:

Faculty/Qualifications/Specialty Certification

Common Program Requirement: II.B.2.

The physician faculty must have current certification in the specialty by the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, or possess qualifications acceptable to the Review Committee.

The information provided was incomplete.

No information was provided for two of the ten physician faculty listed.

Program Information Form pp. 2,8

Involving Residents in the Accreditation Process

Jason N. Itri, MD, PhD; Resident member of the RRC for Diagnostic Radiology

You don't have to be a member of your specialty's Review Committee or a program director to participate in the accreditation process at your institution. One of the first steps towards accreditation is submission of the Program Information Form (PIF), a document completed by the program director in preparation for a site visit by ACGME Field Staff. It is important that the PIF describe the residency accurately and completely, as it reflects all educational and compliance-related aspects of the program. Resident involvement in the preparation of the PIF can be a rewarding experience for both resident and program director alike. It is an opportunity to critically evaluate various aspects of the program, develop efficient and effective practices structured around the core competencies, and institute programmatic improvements that emphasize educational outcomes. Completion of the PIF does not have to be an end-point in the accreditation process. Rather, it can be a starting point for creativity and innovation. Motivated residents, given the opportunity to be involved in the accreditation process, can serve as valuable resources for fresh perspectives, new ideas and innovative solutions.

Welcome to New Review Committee Members

The Review Committee is thrilled to welcome the following new members:

[Donald A. Podoloff, MD](#) is a professor in the Department of Nuclear Medicine, Division Head, Division of Diagnostic Imaging, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Podoloff completed his undergraduate studies in chemistry at New York University and received his MD at State University of New York, Downstate Medicine, in Brooklyn. Dr. Podoloff interned in internal medicine and was chief resident at Beth Israel Medical Center. He completed his diagnostic radiology education at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Podoloff is Board-certified in internal medicine, radiology, and nuclear medicine. The Committee looks forward to benefitting from Dr. Podoloff's wealth of experience, expertise, and wisdom.

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Lorraine Marilyn Fig, MD is a clinical professor in the Department of Radiology at the University of Michigan. Dr. Fig completed her Nuclear Medicine residency in the Division of Nuclear Medicine at the University of Michigan Affiliated Hospitals, in addition to completing a Masters of Public Health at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. Prior to joining the medical school faculty, Dr. Fig received her medical degree at the University of Cape Town Medical School, and after an internship in internal medicine, she completed her residency in the Department of Pathology at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. Dr. Fig has published 50 articles in peer-reviewed journals, in addition to several book chapters. She has served as an active member in the Society of Nuclear Medicine and the American College of Nuclear Physicians over the past two decades, and contributes to ongoing research activities with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Review Committee looks forward to welcoming Dr. Fig as a new member at the May 2010 meeting.

Erin Grady, MD is currently a resident in Loyola University Medical Center's Nuclear Medicine program, located right outside of Chicago. Dr. Grady completed her internal medicine preliminary year of residency at the University of Oklahoma in Tulsa, during which time she was recognized as the 2007-2008 Intern of the Year. She currently serves as president of the Resident Organization for the American College of Nuclear Physicians. Dr. Grady has been described as a resident who understands the potential of molecular imaging and is unafraid to ask for guidance when she encounters something that she does not fully understand. These skills will serve her well as the new resident member of the Review Committee.