

# RRC NEWS

## PATHOLOGY



ACGME

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

FALL 2008

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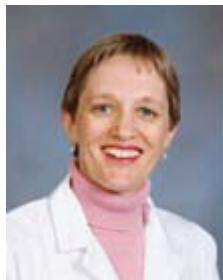
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RRC NEWS IS A BIENNIAL PUBLICATION THAT PROVIDES REVIEW COMMITTEE AND ACGME UPDATES. PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR FOR SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER: [KREINHOLD@ACGME.ORG](mailto:KREINHOLD@ACGME.ORG).

### New Committee Members



The RRC for Pathology is pleased to welcome Julia C. Iezzoni, MD. Dr. Iezzoni is an Associate Professor of Surgical Pathology at the University of Virginia, with special interest in liver pathology, including liver transplant pathology.



The RRC for Pathology is pleased to welcome Diane Davey, MD. Dr. Davey is the Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education and a Professor of Pathology at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine, and is recognized internationally for her many contributions to the field of cytopathology.

### Report of Citations: Hematopathology, 2003 - 2008

Over the most recent five-year period (2003-2008), the most common citations for hematopathology fellowships (listed as percentage of total citations with additional details) are:

#### The Educational Program (approximately 48%)

Goals and Objectives

- o Not available
- o Not competency-based

#### ACGME Competencies

- o Not incorporated into curriculum
- o Not addressed completely

#### Scholarly Activity

- o Time not allotted
- o Research and publication not encouraged

#### Duty Hours

- o 1 day in 7 free
- o 10 hour rest period

### MEETING AND AGENDA CLOSING DATES

MEETING: April 17, 2009

AGENDA CLOSING: March 2, 2009

MEETING: OCTOBER 2, 2009

AGENDA CLOSING: AUGUST 25, 2009

## **Evaluation (approximately 27%)**

- o Evaluation of Residents
- o Evaluation of Faculty
- o Evaluation of Program

## **Institutional Support (approximately 15%)**

- o Participating Site
- o Facilities (Educational)
- o Facilities (Clinical)

## **Program Personnel and Resources (approximately 8%)**

- o Resources

## **Case Log System**

In order to ensure the ACGME logs contain the essential information requested by the American Board of Pathology Application for Certification (ABP), the case log system has been updated with two fields: gender (addition) and age (modification). There is now a toggle on the data entry screen that will remind users entering autopsy data that the gender, age, and diagnosis must be included in the case notes field for the report to be acceptable to the ABP.

## **Fellowship Program Requirements Revisions**

Members of the Pathology RRC will solicit input from various professional specialty societies to obtain feedback regarding imminent revisions of fellowship program requirements. Having these societies as resources will assist the Committee in drafting relevant program requirements that reflect current subspecialty education and practice. Subspecialties represented will include: cytopathology, neuropathology, blood banking/transfusion medicine, medical microbiology and pediatric pathology.

## **Improving the Alignment of Program Requirements and the PIF**

The updated Program Information Form (PIF) for Pathology became effective in June, 2008, and more fine-tuning of this document is already underway. Changes in the PIF are driven by ongoing efforts of the RRC members and RRC staff to revise, update, reorganize, and streamline program requirements for pathology and subspecialty programs.

Updates on these changes will be available in winter of 2009. Always refer to the ACGME website for the most current PIF. The RRC will accept either version of the PIF during this transition period.

## **Internal Reviews**

The sponsoring institution is required to conduct an internal review of each residency and fellowship program under its purview at approximately the midpoint of the accreditation cycle (the time between the date of the most recent accreditation action and the next scheduled site visit). The institution assembles an internal review committee, which must include at least one faculty member and at least one resident, who cannot be from the program that is being reviewed. The process involves interviews with the program director, key faculty members, peer-selected residents from each level of training, and other individuals as appropriate. Frequently it includes review of data, such as how the program has addressed the citations from the last accreditation survey.

The goal of the internal review is a thorough and candid review that identifies the program's strengths and opportunities for improvement, and allows resolution of any concerns or problems before the program's next accreditation site visit. The responsibility for timing and conduct of the internal review lies with the sponsoring institution. At the same time, program directors and residents should be familiar with the process as they may be asked to participate in internal reviews.

When a program has no residents/fellows enrolled at the mid-point of the review cycle, the institution must provide a modified internal review that ensures the program has maintained adequate faculty and staff resources, clinical volume, and other necessary curricular elements required to be in substantial compliance with the institutional, common and specialty-specific program requirements. After enrolling a resident/fellow, an internal review must be completed within the second six-month period of the resident's/fellow's first year in the program.

Neither the site visitor nor the RRC reviewer sees the data from the internal review, which is not included with the program information form (PIF). Verification of the internal review during the site visit covers the date, the participants, and then the review presented to the institution's graduate medical education committee (GMEC). This information is obtained verbally or in writing. The site visitor does not look at the results of the internal review, to ensure that a review honestly assesses the program's strengths and opportunities for improvement.

## **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. The request for a permanent increase in the resident complement must include a copy of the institutional data for all participating sites. Only one academic or one calendar year of data is necessary.)
- Submit the academic year “Annual Update” (ADS staff will e-mail the deadline for updating faculty and resident rosters to the program director and DIO)
- 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 [ADS@acgme.org](mailto:ADS@acgme.org).

### ACGME Learning Portfolio

A number of resources are available 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>.

This newsletter will feature additional information from the beta phase as it becomes available. 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)

### Voluntary Withdrawal Requests

Programs must now enter requests to voluntarily withdraw accreditation (VW) using ADS only. Programs initiate the request by answering a series of questions, including the proposed effective date, which should coincide with the end of an academic year, the reason for program closure, and a plan to place any active residents in other programs. After submitting in ADS, the request is automatically emailed to the DIO for approval. After the DIO/GMEC approves

the request in ADS, the system informs the RRC staff designee. The RRC considers the request at its next meeting and notifies the program director via an official letter that the accreditation status is changed to VW.

### “Red Flags” Help Programs Recognize Potential Issues

In the [February 2008](#) issue of the ACGME e-Bulletin, an article entitled “Nine ‘Red Flags’ in Accreditation Site Visits and Reviews” by members of the ACGME Field Staff provides observations that may raise questions about program quality and compliance with program and institutional requirements. This may be of particular interest to programs preparing for upcoming site visits.

### 2009 ACGME Educational Conference March 5-8, 2009 in Grapevine, Texas

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 general competencies, educational outcome assessment, and duty hours.

The 2009 conference theme, “Shaping the Future,” will offer more than 80 sessions clearly focused on the topics of education, assessment, the learning environment, and accreditation. The Conference will begin with an international pre-conference titled “Promoting Good Learning and Safe, Effective Care: A Five-Year Review of the ACGME’s Common Duty Hour Standards,” as well as an introductory pre-course for new program directors and coordinators.

The Medical Genetics specialty session will be held on Friday, March 6, from 4:15 to 5:00pm. Program directors will have the opportunity to meet ACGME staff and discuss issues of common interest.

Attendees and speakers can register here: [http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/meetings/me\\_EducConf\\_09\\_Speakers.asp](http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/meetings/me_EducConf_09_Speakers.asp).

### Council of Review Committee Residents

The Council of Review Committee Residents (CRCR) is composed of physicians in-training, and their unique perspective makes them invaluable members of the 28 residency review committees to which they belong.

The CRCR meets in February and September, and

provides advice and feedback to the ACGME Board through its chair, Karen Hsu Blatman, MD. Dr. Hsu Blatman is one of two ACGME resident directors of the ACGME Board of Directors (the AMA appoints a resident director from its Resident and Fellow Section), and she also serves on the ACGME Strategic Initiatives Committee. Adeline Deladisma, MD, vice chair, serves on the ACGME Monitoring Committee.

In recent years, the CRCR has provided feedback on the redesign of the ACGME resident survey and has also recommended a change in the institutional requirements to allow for a fairer grievance process when the designated institutional official is also the program director. In addition, the CRCR has voiced concerns with the Federation of State Medical Boards about its "unusual circumstance" question on the verification credentialing form.



*Pictured above: From Back Row (left to right): Miriam D. Post, MD, Pathology; Meredith Riebschleger, MD, Pediatrics; Monica E. Rho, MD, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; Jeffrey H. Kozlow, MD, Plastic Surgery; Samuel Seiden, MD, Anesthesiology; Kayla Pope, MD, Psychiatry; Todd J. Mondzelewski, MD, Ophthalmology.*

*Middle Row: Matthew M. Poppe, MD, Radiation Oncology; Ruth Ann Vleugels, MD, Dermatology; Brian Lane, MD, PhD, Urology; Michael L. DiLuna, MD, Neurological Surgery; Adeline Deladisma, MD, Surgery; Joanna R. Fair, MD, Nuclear Medicine.*

*Front Row): Esther J. Cheung, MD, Otolaryngology; Rupa J. Dainer, MD, Institutional Review Committee; Karen Hsu Blatman, MD, Internal Medicine (and baby Penelope); Jaime Lynn Bohl, MD, Colon and Rectal Surgery; Gretchen Glaser, MD; Obstetrics and Gynecology.*

*Not pictured: Jose A. Carillo, MD, Neurology, Molly Cohen-Osher, Family Medicine, Brian P. Freeman, MD, Internal Medicine, James Huang, MD, Thoracic Surgery, Shauna Lawless, MD, Preventive Medicine, Keri A. Reese, MD, Orthopaedic Surgery, Jessica B. Robbins, MD, Diagnostic Radiology, Benjamin P. Soule, MD, Allergy and Immunology, Sarah Taylor, MD, Transitional Year, Michael J. Tocci, MD, Emergency Medicine, Audrey C. Woerner, MD, Medical Genetics.*

## **Courage to Teach, Courage to Lead, and John C. Gienapp Awardees**

The Courage to Teach Award is given to program directors, nominated by their peers and students, who have innovative residency program curricula, and who have improved graduate medical education and served as exemplary role models for residents. The award is named for Parker J. Palmer, PhD, a sociologist and teacher who wrote *The Courage to Teach*.

The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach and Courage to Lead award recipients will receive plaques and checks for \$1,000 at a luncheon held during the ACGME's Annual Educational Conference, which will take place March 5-8 at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Dallas. The award recipients will also be invited to attend an educational retreat next May at the Fetzer Institute in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

A 2008-2009 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Awardee for Pathology is:

- Edmund Cibas, MD, cytopathology, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts.

## **RRC Webpage Redesign**

During this past year the RRC web pages have been redesigned. The user-friendly format has a new look for each page, and allows users to quickly locate information on the RRC pages through new menus and navigation bars; content has been organized into specific categories, and keywords have been updated to improve search engine results. A link to your RRC staff listing, along with their contact information, is located at the top of the page. The contact list is organized by subject so that you may easily access the staff member who is responsible for key areas and get your questions answered in a timely manner.

The new Pathology webpage is located here: [http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/navPages/nav\\_300.asp](http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/navPages/nav_300.asp)