

RRC NEWS

PATHOLOGY



Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

JULY 2011

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GARY W. PROCOP, MD

REVIEW COMMITTEE STAFF

LINDA THORSEN, MA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
312.755.5029
LMT@ACGME.ORG

STEPHEN MOORE
ACCREDITATION ADMINISTRATOR
312.755.5045
SMOORE@ACGME.ORG

NEW MEMBERS OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Review Committee welcomes Susan A. Fuhrman, MD as its newest member. Her term began July 1 and goes through June, 2017. Dr. Fuhrman is currently the director of Grant/Riverside Laboratories and Chair of Pathology at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Fuhrman served on the faculty of the University of Minnesota for 12 years teaching laboratory medicine to senior medical students and pathology residents. Dr. Fuhrman has been a judge at the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Pathology Resident Award presentations for two years, and an attendee at the ASCP Colorado Springs Conference on curriculum reform. She was named a trustee of the American Board of Pathology in January 2011 and currently serves as chair of its Management and Informatics Test Committee.

The Committee also welcomes Douglas W. Lynch, MD, as its new resident member. As of July 1, Dr. Lynch is a third-year pathology resident at the Sanford School of Medicine of the University of South Dakota in Sioux Falls, where he also graduated Summa Cum Laude from medical school. The recipient of the 'Outstanding 3rd Year Medical Student for Internal Medicine' in 2008, Dr. Lynch also achieved the honor of membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society (2008) and was awarded the Sanford Hospital Medical Staff Scholarships in both 2007 and 2008. Currently, Dr. Lynch serves on the Sanford School of Medicine Medical Education Subcommittee.

UPDATE ON IMPACT OF APPROVED REVISIONS TO THE COMMON PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS ON SPECIALTY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Revisions to the ACGME Common Program Requirements related to duty hours in the learning and working environment were approved by the ACGME Board of Directors on Monday, September 27, 2010, with an effective date of July 1, 2011. The revised Common Program Requirements include several sections that necessitate further specialty-specific requirements or definitions, several of which required immediate action by the Review Committees. A summary of the specialty-specific duty hour definitions

MEETING AND AGENDA CLOSING DATES

MEETING: SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2011
AGENDA CLOSING: JULY 21, 2011
MEETING: APRIL 13-14, 2012
AGENDA CLOSING: FEBRUARY 3, 2012

NOTIFICATION DEADLINES

5 DAYS AFTER MEETING:

E-MAIL NOTIFICATION OF REVIEW STATUS/
CYCLE LENGTH AUTOMATICALLY SENT TO
PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND DIO.

60 DAYS AFTER MEETING:

E-MAIL ALERT SENT STATING THAT LETTER
OF NOTIFICATION IS POSTED IN ADS.

*UNTIL THE OFFICIAL LETTER IS POSTED IN ADS,
REVIEW COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS ARE UNABLE/
NOT PERMITTED TO DISCUSS THE COMMITTEE'S
ACTION OR SPECIFIC DETAILS OF THE AREAS OF
NON-COMPLIANCE.*

ACGME
515 NORTH STATE STREET
SUITE 2000
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60654
312.755.5000
WWW.ACGME.ORG

developed by the Review Committees and approved at the February 2011 ACGME Board meeting is posted on the ACGME website at http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/dutyHours/Specialty-specific_DH_Definitions.pdf (a direct link can also be found on the ACGME [home page](#)). The remaining identified areas for Review Committee action will be developed over the next year for implementation in July 2012.

Each set of specialty-specific program requirements will be updated with the revised Common Program Requirements and specialty-specific duty-hour definitions approved at the February 2011 ACGME Board meeting, and will be posted on July 1, 2011.

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document including details regarding the updated requirements was posted to the [Review Committee web page](#) as of July 1, 2011.

Any questions about this process or the impact of the Common Program Requirements revisions should be directed to Review Committee Executive Director Linda Thorsen, MA, at lm@acgme.org.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR REVISED DUTY HOUR STANDARDS

In conjunction with the revisions to the Common Program Requirements, effective July 1, 2011, the Review Committee has developed an FAQ document in an effort to clarify the PGY-1 year call issue for core pathology programs, as well as to discuss changes in the requirements for direct and indirect supervision of residents.

The [complete FAQ document](#) (available on the [Committee's web page](#)) includes examples of 1) how a program might interpret these new regulations and work effectively to provide necessary lines of supervision, and 2) how a program identifies when a PGY-1 resident is eligible to move from activities requiring direct supervision, to activities in which indirect supervision with direct supervision available may be employed.

The FAQs also delineate the individuals who may supervise PGY-1 residents.

The major issue of program directors' concern was the matter of call for PGY-1 residents. In response to this concern, the Committee developed the following FAQ. The Committee also provides a number of specific examples for addressing call issues in the [full document](#).

Q. The revised Common Program Requirements (effective July 1, 2011) preclude PGY-1 residents from taking call. How can Pathology Program Directors provide PGY-1 residents the educational experiences similar to what they are receiving currently during 'on call' assignments? (Common Program Requirement VI.G.8)

A. The 'new' requirements specify the following for PGY-1 residents:

- a maximum 80-hour work week
- duty periods that must not exceed 16 hours
- a 10-hour minimum time off between duty periods (*should be scheduled*) and an 8-hour minimum time off between duty periods (*must be scheduled*)

The PGY-1 resident does not need to be 'in house' during a 16-hour duty period. The duty period may include time in the institution/hospital and time outside of the institution/hospital. Expectations are that the PGY-1 resident continues to assume clinical responsibilities assigned, and remains under obligation to the program for the defined duty hour period.

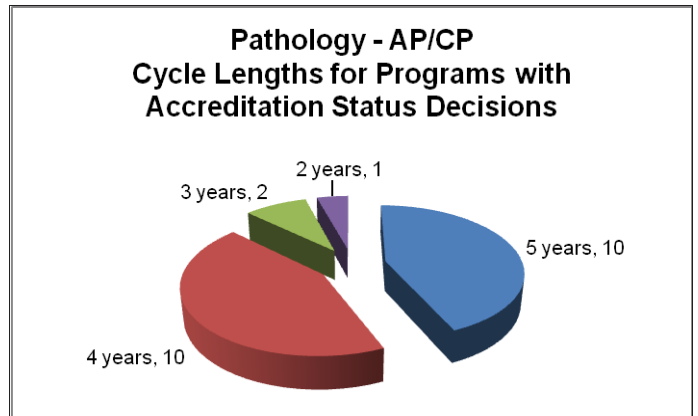
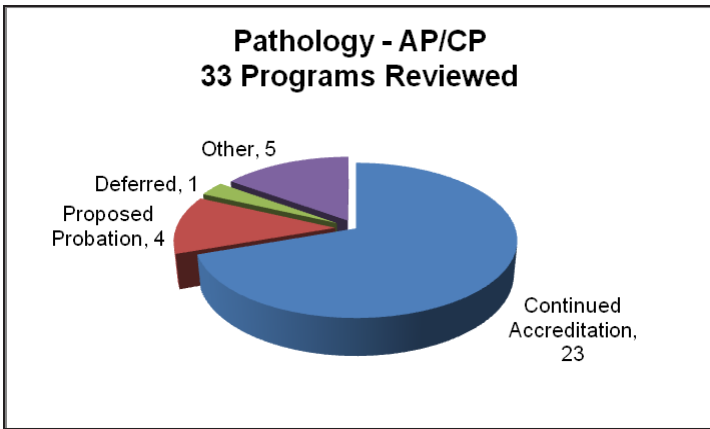
Additional questions regarding these new regulations may be forwarded to Executive Director Linda Thorsen: lm@acgme.org or 312.755.5029.

REVIEW COMMITTEE DECISIONS

The agenda for the April 7-9, 2011 Review Committee meeting included accreditation status reviews of 28 anatomic pathology/clinical pathology (AP/CP) programs, and the non-accreditation status reviews (progress reports or other interim requests) of five AP/CP programs.

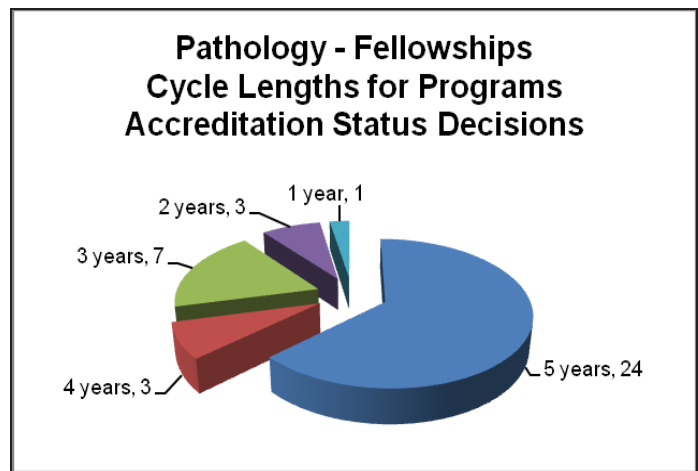
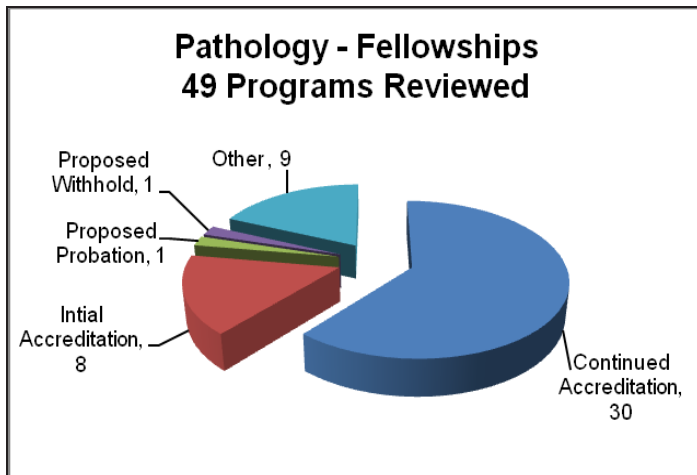
REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR PATHOLOGY DECISIONS: APRIL 2011 MEETING	
Pathology – AP/CP 33 Total Programs Reviewed	
Continued Accreditation	23
Proposed Probation	4
Deferred	1
Other (progress reports, increase in complement)	3

(Continued on p.3)



The meeting agenda also included accreditation status reviews for 40 fellowship programs and non-accreditation status reviews of nine fellowship programs.

REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR PATHOLOGY DECISIONS: APRIL 2011 MEETING	
Pathology – Fellowships 49 Total Programs Reviewed	
Continued Accreditation	30
Initial Accreditation	8
Proposed Probation	1
Proposed Withhold	1
Other	9



RESIDENT SURVEY

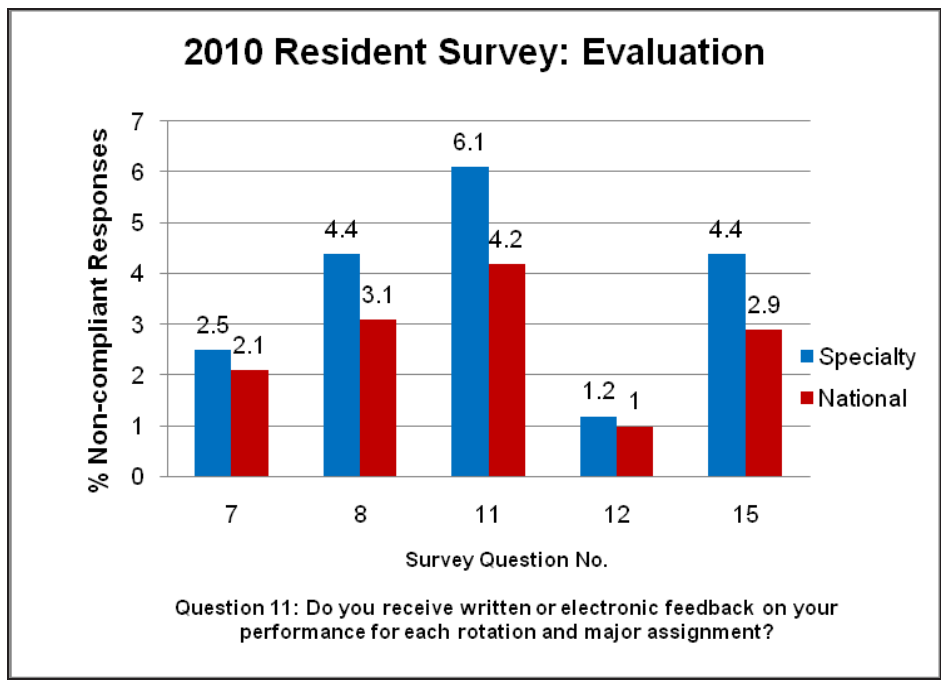
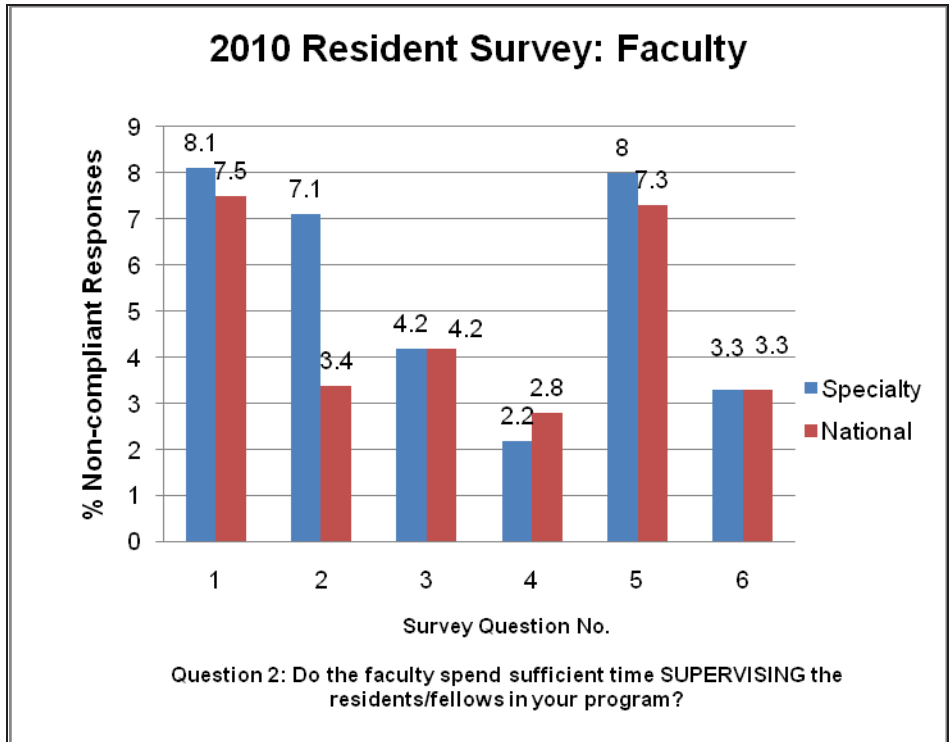
A new version of the Resident Survey was made available on January 12, 2011 for participation by all programs with four or more residents. There are now 34 questions, and the duty hour questions appear first. All forced *yes/no* questions were eliminated, and every question has been re-worded by the survey research team at the University of Wisconsin. There are two new questions related to teamwork. Any areas identified by residents as potentially non-compliant with program requirements are specifically addressed by the site visitor. If the site visitor confirms a pre-identified area of concern, the Review Committee will cite that as an area of non-compliance with the ACGME standards in a program's Letter of Notification following the formal review. If the site visitor cannot verify a potential area of non-compliance per the survey results, the Review Committee will consider all of the program's accreditation materials, and while a formal citation may not be given, the Committee may still provide a comment to the program that this is an area to be monitored.

Programs should be aware that survey results contribute to national annual compliance data. Among other

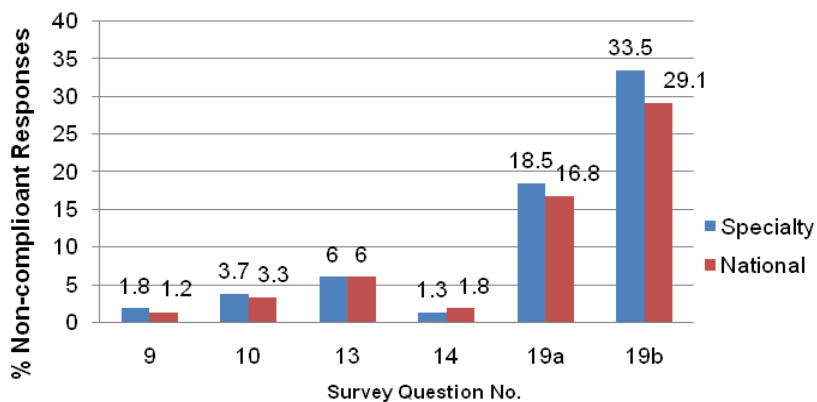
important benefits of collecting such data, thresholds for non-compliance are established based on this information. Programs across specialties that are identified as having a series of non-compliant responses (either annually or in consecutive program reviews) may be required to submit a Duty Hour or Progress Report to their Review Committee or undergo an accreditation site visit at an earlier date than stated in the program's most recent Letter of Notification.

ACGME RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS: 2010 SURVEY

The national results for all Anatomic Pathology/Clinical Pathology programs compared to the national results for all specialties are shown below. Each chart shows the results for all survey questions in one of the five survey areas. When the percentage of non-compliant responses is significantly greater for the specialty compared to all specialties, the question(s) are included in the chart. Seven questions were significantly higher than the national average for all specialties. The specialty-specific and national non-compliance rates are also included. Programs may compare their own aggregated results to the results shown in each chart.

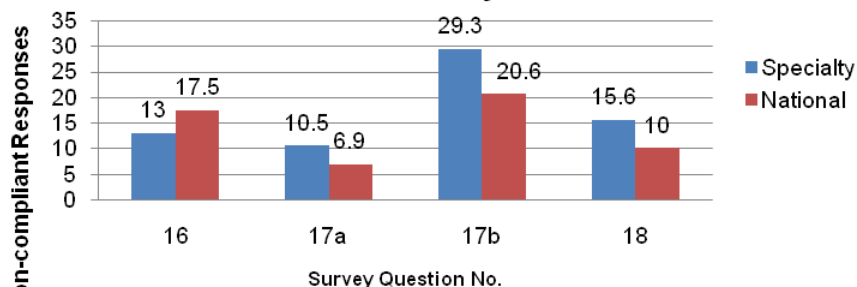


2010 Resident Survey: Educational Content



Question 19b: How often has your clinical education been compromised by excessive service obligations?

2010 Resident Survey: Resources

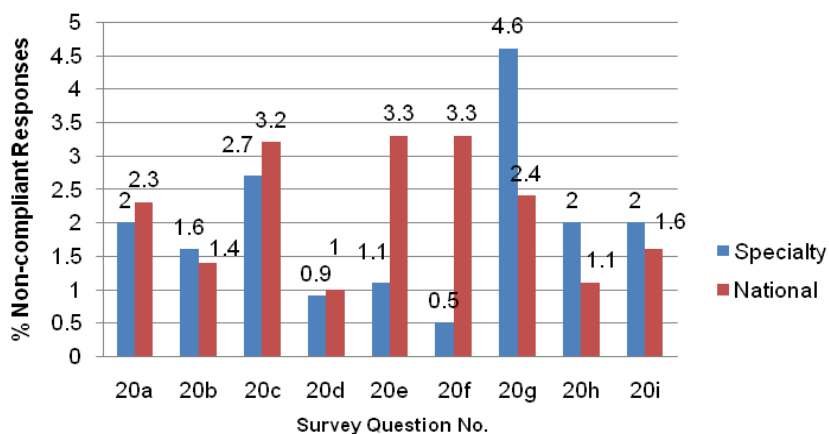


Question 17a: Does your program provided an environment where residents/fellows can raise problems or concerns without fear or intimidation or fear of retaliation?

Question 17b: How satisfied are you with your program's process to deal confidentially with problems or concerns you might have?

Question 18: How often are you able to access, either in print or electronic format, the specialty specific and other reference materials that you need?

2010 Resident Survey: Duty Hours



Question 20g: At-home call must not be so frequent as to preclude rest and reasonable personal time for each resident/fellow.

ACGME RESIDENT CASE LOG SYSTEM

Although not an explicit requirement, the Committee encourages programs to ensure residents are directly involved in reporting their operative case reporting in the ACGME Case Log System. It has become increasingly apparent that residents are not entering their own cases, and that program staff (e.g., the program coordinator) handle this responsibility. Although the ultimate responsibility for accurate and complete submission of data resides with the program director, (PR II.A.4.f)), the Committee believes this task to be a valuable learning activity for program residents.

NOTABLE PRACTICES

The Review Committee for Pathology occasionally identifies notable practices during its review of individual programs. One of the goals in the notable practice initiative is to communicate the notable practices to all program directors as useful models that may be adapted to respective program needs.

The definition of a notable practice is: *a process or practice that a Review Committee or other ACGME committee deems worthy of notice. Notable practices are shared through the ACGME website or other ACGME publications to provide programs and institutions with additional resources for resident education. A Notable Practice is not a requirement, which is a minimum standard, and its use on the ACGME website does not imply or refer to a practice necessary to comply with a requirement.*

A notable practice developed by the Loyola University (Chicago) program, outlined below, was identified by the Review Committee at its spring 2011 meeting. This notable practice was recently uploaded to the [All Notable Practices web page](#) (also linked from [the Committee's web page](#)), and can be found [here](#).

Loyola University Lab Management Curriculum

Purpose: To provide residents with experience in responsibility for clinical service, quality assurance activities, resource management, and other components of laboratory direction (e.g., method validation and/or applied clinical research studies).

Format: Residents receive education throughout the residency, with PGY-4 residents participating in a one-month directorship rotation. Residents in this rotation are educated on reference laboratory services and utilization. The rotation also includes

a call system in which residents rotate as the 'point person' to triage selected reference laboratory requests.

Participants: All residents, all AP and CP faculty directors, and laboratory managers and/or technical specialists as needed.

2011 WORKSHOP: BASICS OF ACCREDITATION FOR NEW PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Date: October 10, 2011

Location: ACGME Headquarters
515 North State Street, Suite 2000
Chicago, Illinois 60654

This one-day intensive workshop is designed to help new program coordinators understand the basics of ACGME accreditation of residency programs. The workshop is designed for individuals who assist the program director in the administration of the residency program and are new to the accreditation process. Participants must have less than two years of experience as a program coordinator.

More Information: [Workshop Brochure](#)
[Click here](#) to go to online registration.
E-mail questions about the workshops to
Coordinatorworkshops@acgme.org.

Save the Date:
2012 ACGME
Annual Educational Conference
March 1-4, 2012
Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin
Orlando, Florida

more information to follow

RRC NEWS PROVIDES TIMELY AND CURRENT REVIEW COMMITTEE AND SPECIALTY UPDATES, AS WELL AS GENERAL ACGME INFORMATION AND EXPLANATIONS OF ITS SYSTEMS, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES. IT ALSO SERVES AS A VEHICLE FOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE REVIEW COMMITTEE AND ITS CONSTITUENTS.

PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR WITH SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER: [MSCHWAB@ACGME.ORG](mailto:mschwab@acgme.org).

NEWSLETTERS ARE TYPICALLY AVAILABLE FOLLOWING A REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING, BETWEEN ONCE AND THREE TIMES PER YEAR.

We'd like to know how we're doing. The ACGME's Department of Accreditation Committees has been working to improve newsletter content. Please e-mail the editor (mschwab@acgme.org) with feedback on articles in recent issues -- were they useful? interesting? informative? what are we missing? what would make them better? Thank you for your input!