

RRC NEWS

PLASTIC SURGERY



Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

JULY 2009

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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.

Updates on Program Requirements Implementation

Programs currently providing residency education in plastic surgery in a two-year program length must request a change in program length to three years no later than July 30, 2009.

Programs will need to make two requests:

1. Request to Increase Program Length (see below)
2. Request to Increase Complement (made using ADS)

The following information may also be reviewed at:

http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/RRC_sharedDocs/sh_Program.asp

Guidelines to Increase Program Length

The following information must be submitted in a letter to the attention of the Executive Director of the RRC for Plastic Surgery:

1. A statement describing the proposal including the proposed date of implementation;
2. The educational rationale and the goals and objectives for each proposed assignment for the proposed additional year;
3. A current block diagram and a proposed block diagram of a typical resident's assignments;
4. Comment on issues identified at the last site visit;
5. A letter of support from the DIO;
6. Institutional operative statistics and faculty CVs, if the proposal includes adding another clinical site.

The RRC expects to receive information for the Goals & Objectives (#2 above) for each new site that will be included as part of a request to increase program length. Likewise, faculty CVs are expected for any new/additional faculty members only.

MEETING AND AGENDA CLOSING DATES

MEETING: OCTOBER 8-9, 2009
AGENDA CLOSING: JULY 30, 2009

MEETING: APRIL 21-22, 2010
AGENDA CLOSING: FEBRUARY 9, 2010

Changes in Resident Complement

In addition to determining a program's accreditation status and cycle, the RRC also determines the resident complement for each program, by PG Year. If your request for an increase in program length will include an increase in resident complement (e.g., A request to permanently increase the current complement of 3-3 to 3-3-3), programs will also need to submit a request for a change in resident complement through the Accreditation Data System (ADS). Complete requests (including DIO approval) must be received no later than July 30, 2009 in order to be considered at the October 2009 RRC agenda.

Honoring Previous Commitments to Current Residents

At its May 2009 meeting, the RRC affirmed its decision that during this transition all programs must honor the previous commitments to current residents.

Residents who began their education prior to July 1, 2010 must complete their residency education program according to the terms and conditions of their appointment letters. The RRC neither expects nor condones lengthening resident program length after the start of an educational program.

A number of programs provide resident education in a "combined" format, where the resident enters the institution's surgery program for three years before beginning the plastic surgery residency. The RRC understands that residents in the surgery portion of their education at such institutions have been informed of the total years of education. In order to ensure that these residents have their previous commitments honored, the RRC is requiring that all programs in the "combined" format provide the following information to the RRC.

- Resident Name
- PGY position (specify Surgery or Plastic Surgery)
- Expected date of graduation (from Plastic Surgery)

Exceptions for combined programs to the three-year plastic surgery residency education will be considered for these individuals. An administrative letter will be sent to the program director with the RRC decision and the information will be entered into the program's history. Additionally, the RRC will inform the American Board of Plastic Surgery about the exceptions granted.

Vice-Chair Re-Election

At its May 2009 meeting the RRC re-elected Gregory Borah, MD to serve as vice-chair for a second two-year term, July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011.

Extending the Term of Chair

At its February 2009 meeting, the ACGME Board of Directors approved revisions to the Manual of Policies and Procedures that included changing the name of the ACGME Council of Review Committee Chairs to the ACGME Council of Review Committees (CRC) and extending the term length of Review Committee Chairs from two years to three years (Manual, pg 36), including endorsement of the implementation of the transition plan.

The primary rationale for these changes is to facilitate greater interaction and improved communication with the ACGME Board of Directors by helping ensure institutional memory as the Council undertakes its initiatives through the coming years. Under the scope of its redesign, the CRC also structured three subcommittees: Standardization, Innovation, and Common Program Requirements and identified three specialty groups – Surgical, Medical, Hospital-based and Ancillary. These subcommittees and sections will become pivotal to the CRC in accomplishing its work.

Dr. Robert Havlik will serve as chair of the RRC for Plastic Surgery until June 30, 2011.

RRC DECISIONS—May 2009

Initial Accreditation – 1

Continued Accreditation—10

Deferrals—2

Other Requests: (Progress reports, increases in complement, changes in program format)—23

Craniofacial Program Requirements Revision Process

The RRC is currently undertaking a major revision to the program requirements in Craniofacial Surgery.

The ACGME requires that each set of program requirements undergoes major revision at least once every five years. Approximately 18 months before the scheduled date of the next major revision for a particular set of requirements, the ACGME's Requirement Development Committee (RDC) reviews the existing requirements and program information form (PIF) and provides feedback to the Review Committee regarding potential areas for improvement. The Review

Committee considers the RDC suggestions and also updates the requirements and PIF as needed based on input from the medical community. The revised craniofacial requirements and PIF are then submitted to the RDC for consideration. Upon approval from the RDC, the revised requirements are posted, along with an impact statement on the ACGME website; program directors and DIOs are notified through the ACGME weekly e-Communication that the proposed requirements are available for review and comment for a period of 45 days. At the conclusion of the review and comment period, the Review Committee reviews the comments submitted in response to the proposed requirements, considers whether additional changes to the craniofacial requirements are needed in response to the comments, and prepares the final draft of the requirements for submission to the ACGME Board of Directors. A summary of the submitted comments and the Review Committee's response to these comments must accompany the requirements when they are submitted to the Board. Upon approval by the ACGME Board, the new requirements are posted to the ACGME website, along with the effective date. Program directors and DIOs are notified through the ACGME e-Communication.

The RRC expects that the revisions to the Craniofacial Surgery program requirements will be available for review and comment in early 2010.

2010 Parker J. Palmer *Courage to Teach Award, Courage to Lead Award, and David C. Leach, MD Award*

The ACGME is accepting nominations for the 2010 Parker J. Palmer *Courage to Teach* and *Courage to Lead Awards*, and the *David C. Leach, MD Award*.

The *Courage to Teach Award* – named after Parker J. Palmer, PhD, a noted teacher and sociologist who wrote the *Courage to Teach* and other books on teaching and vocation – is given annually to 10 program directors who have developed innovative teaching practices and demonstrated a commitment to teaching.

The *Courage to Lead Award*, also named after Dr. Palmer, is presented yearly to three designated institutional officials who have created an optimal environment for resident education. One award is given to a designated institutional official in each of the three categories of sponsoring institutions: small hospital (25 or fewer residency programs), large hospital (25 to 50 residency programs), and tertiary academic medical center (more than 50 residency programs).

Each nomination must include a completed application form, three letters of recommendation and the nominee's curriculum vitae. Each winner will receive \$1,000 and a plaque, and will also be invited to a retreat in May. In addition, awardees will be invited to attend an awards luncheon held during the 2010 ACGME Annual Educational Conference, which will take place March 4-7 in Nashville, Tenn.

More information about these awards is available in these FAQs: <http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/courageLeadAward/CTLawardFAQs.pdf> and <http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/palmerAward/CTTAwardFAQs.pdf>.

The *David C. Leach, MD, Award* is named in honor of the ACGME's former chief executive officer, David C. Leach, MD, who retired in 2007. This new annual award will recognize residents and resident teams for improving graduate medical education. The award will be given to residents or resident teams (residents, fellows, faculty, program coordinators, allied health professionals) who have developed a project or activity that improves graduate medical education in one or more of the following areas:

- fostering innovation and improvement in the learning environment
- increasing the program's emphasis on educational outcomes
- increasing efficiency and reducing non-educational burden
- improving communication and collaboration in education and patient care within the program or institution
- advancing humanism in patient care and among health care professionals

Five awards will be given to residents or resident teams. Residents and teams may be nominated by program directors, designated institutional officials, program coordinators, ACGME Review Committees, or chief executive officers of teaching hospitals. Nominations must include a completed application form and three recommendation letters.

Winners will receive \$2500 and a plaque. Awardees will be invited to attend an awards luncheon held during the 2010 ACGME Annual Educational Conference, which will take place March 4-7 in Nashville, Tenn. For more information, FAQs are available here:

http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/dcl_award/DCLawardFAQs.pdf

The ACGME Awards Committee will choose the 2010

Courage to Teach, Courage to Lead, and David C. Leach, MD award recipients in September, 2009. Nominations for all three awards are due July 1, 2009. The application is located on the ACGME website (www.acgme.org). Completed applications and supporting materials should be sent to Emily Vasiliou at evasiliou@acgme.org.

Useful ACGME Website Links

- Virtual PD handbook: <http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/home/PDVirtualHandbook.asp>

- ACGME Data book: https://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/dataBook/dat_index.asp.

- Frequency of Accreditation Statuses by Specialty and Average Cycle Length by Accreditation Status and by specialty: <http://www.acgme.org/adspublic/>, click on Search programs and sponsors.

- Resident Survey National Data Report - available in ADS for Program Directors: log into ADS, click Resident/Fellow Survey, click National Data; DIOs select Reporting Tools, click Resident Survey National Data Overall.

- Resident Survey Institutional Data Report for each sponsoring institution's programs – available in ADS for DIOs: log into ADS, select Reporting Tools, click Institution Level Resident Survey Results

- Faculty development resources for competency-based education, a series of four PowerPoint presentations with facilitator's manuals (introduction to competency-based resident education, practical implementation of the competencies, developing an assessment system, developing a competency-based curriculum) - http://www.acgme.org/outcome/e-learn/e_powerpoint.asp

Accreditation Data System (ADS)

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).

- Submit the academic year "Annual Update" (ADS staff will e-mail the deadline for updating faculty and resident rosters)

- 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 WebADS@acgme.org.