

RRC NEWS

SURGERY



ACGME

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

APRIL 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.

Summary of Actions, February 2009

Surgery—248 Accredited Programs

41 Agenda Items	
Propose Probation	4
Proposed Withdraw	1
Continued Accreditation	18
Other Administrative Decisions	17
Voluntary Withdrawal	1

Pediatric Surgery—37 Accredited Programs

6 Agenda Items	
Proposed Withhold	1
Continued Accreditation	3
Deferrals	1
Other Administrative Decisions	1

Surgical Critical Care—95 Accredited Programs

12 Agenda Items	
Proposed Withhold	2
Continued Accreditation	5
Deferrals	1
Other Administrative Decisions	4

Vascular Surgery-Independent—98 Accredited Programs

10 Agenda Items	
Proposed Probation	1
Initial Accreditation	1
Continued Accreditation	5
Deferrals	1
Other Administrative Decisions	2

Vascular Surgery-Integrated—18 Accredited Programs

2 Agenda Items	
Initial Accreditation	2

Hand Surgery—1 Accredited Program

No Agenda Items

MEETING AND AGENDA CLOSING DATES

MEETING: JUNE 25-26, 2009
AGENDA CLOSING: APRIL 10, 2009

MEETING: OCTOBER 23-24, 2009
AGENDA CLOSING: AUGUST 14, 2009

MEETING: FEBRUARY 18-19, 2010
AGENDA CLOSING: DECEMBER 10, 2010

Citation Data—2008

The following includes the “top five” list of the most common types of citations programs received from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

Citations-January 1-December 31, 2008

Surgery Programs

1. Responsibilities of Program Director
2. Curricular Development
3. Educational Program - Procedural Experience
4. Goal and Objectives
5. Resident Appointment Issues

Surgical Critical Care Programs

1. Institutional Support-Sponsoring Institution
2. Responsibilities of Faculty
3. Goal and Objectives
4. Educational Program - Didactic Components
5. Evaluation of Residents

Pediatric Surgery Programs

1. Procedural Experience
2. Curricular Development
3. Scholarly Activities
4. Evaluation of Residents
5. Educational Program - Didactic Components

Vascular Surgery Programs

1. Evaluation of Residents
2. Scholarly Activities
3. Performance on Board Scores
4. Educational Program - Procedural Experience
5. Responsibilities of Program Director

Resident Complement Changes

Resident Complement changes must be requested through the Accreditation Data System. The RRC for Surgery approves resident complement in total, by PGY and by type. Should a program wish to make any type of change to its resident complement, it must first be approved by the RRC. ACGME and RRC staff are available if you have questions about this process.

Neurological Surgery Program Requirement Changes—Effective July 1, 2009

The Neurological Surgery (NS) program requirements are changing effective July 1, 2009. This change will affect approximately 100 Surgery programs because the designated preliminary (DP) surgery education position will no longer be needed. NS programs will now begin residency education at the PGY-1 level. Surgery programs, where the designated preliminary complement has supported a year of education for

residents going on to Neurological Surgery, should process a permanent decrease in designated preliminary complement through the Accreditation Data System.

The Surgery RRC will review data on this matter at its June RRC meeting. Should your program wish to reclassify a DP position, it must make a request to the RRC prior to implementing the change. These requests must receive prior approval from the RRC.

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.

Program Requirements Revision Process

The Surgical Critical Care fellowship program requirements are under review by the RRC for Surgery.

The ACGME requires that each set of program requirements undergo 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 requirements and PIF are then submitted to the RDC for consideration.

Upon approval from the RDC, the revised require-

ments 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 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 Surgical Critical Care program requirements will be available for review and comment in late 2009.

2010 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award

The ACGME recognizes that program directors face many challenges in administering a residency program. Those finding innovative ways to teach residents and to provide quality health care while remaining connected to the initial impulse to care for others in this environment should be celebrated. ACGME recognizes program directors through this annual award.

The application form may be downloaded from the ACGME website and emailed along with support letters and curriculum vitae to: Emily Vasiliou at evasiliou@acgme.org. The deadline is Wednesday, July 1, 2009, by 5:00 p.m. CST. Nominations received after that date will not be accepted.

A total of ten program directors will be selected, and each program director will receive a check for \$1,000 and a plaque. Selections will be made by the ACGME Awards Committee at its September 2009 meeting; afterwards, the ACGME CEO will notify the recipients. Travel expenses will be paid by the ACGME for each recipient and a guest to travel to the ACGME Annual Educational Conference in Nashville, Tennessee to receive their award. Award recipients will also be invited to attend a special physician formation retreat in May 2010. Award announcements will be published in a press release and the ACGME Bulletin, as well as

posted on the ACGME website.

If you have any questions, you may contact Emily at evasiliou@acgme.org or by phone at 312/755-7486.

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)
- 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 the ADS representative for Surgery, Emilio Villatoro at webads@acgme.org. Be sure to include your program number in the subject line when contacting Emilio for assistance with ADS.

2010 ACGME Educational Conference

The 2010 ACGME Annual Educational Conference will be held March 4-7 at the Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, Tenn.

Duty Hour Exceptions Update

As a reminder based upon the extremely rare requests received for duty hour exceptions, the RRC has decided that it no longer will approved duty hour exception requests, nor will it renew exceptions currently in effect.