

RRC NEWS

THORACIC SURGERY



ACGME

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

MARCH 2010

REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

WILLIAM BAUMGARTNER, MD, EX-OFFICIO

PATRICE BLAIR, MPH, EX-OFFICIO

R. MORTON BOLMAN, III, MD

IRVING KRON, MD, CHAIR

WALTER H. MERRILL, MD

MICHAEL MILL, MD

TOM C. NGUYEN, MD, RESIDENT

MARK B. ORRINGER, MD

DOUGLAS E. WOOD, MD, VICE CHAIR

RRC STAFF

PEGGY SIMPSON, EDD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

312.755.5499

PSIMPSON@ACGME.ORG

CATHY RUIZ, MA

SENIOR ACCREDITATION ADMINISTRATOR

312.755.5495

CRUIZ@ACGME.ORG

ALLEAN MORROW-YOUNG

ACCREDITATION ASSISTANT

312.755.5038

AMH@ACGME.ORG

ACGME

515 NORTH STATE STREET

SUITE 2000

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60654

RRC NEWS PROVIDES REVIEW COMMITTEE AND ACGME UPDATES. PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR WITH QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER: MSCHWAB@ACGME.ORG.

New Vice Chair-Elect

The Committee elected R. Morton Bolman, III, MD as Vice Chair-Elect of the RRC. Dr. Bolman will begin his term July 1, 2010, and hold the position through June 30, 2011.

Program Requirements Revision Process

The Program Requirements for Congenital Cardiac Surgery fellowships are under review by the Review Committee for Thoracic Surgery.

The ACGME requires that each set of program requirements undergoes major revision at least once every five years. Approximately 24 months before the scheduled date of the next major revision for a particular set of requirements, the ACGME's Requirements 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's suggestions and also updates both 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 RDC approval, the revised requirements are posted, along with an impact statement, on the ACGME website, and program directors and DIOs are notified, via the ACGME's weekly e-Communication, that the proposed requirements are posted for review and comment for a period of 45 days. At the conclusion of the review and comment period, the Review Committee reviews comments submitted in response to the proposed requirements, considers whether additional changes to the requirements are needed in response to these comments, and prepares the final draft of the requirements for submission to the ACGME Board of Directors. A summary of the submitted comments, the Review Committee's response to these comments, and any necessary FAQs must accompany the requirements when they are submitted to the Board. Upon Board approval, the new requirements are posted to the ACGME website, along with their effective date. Again, program directors and DIOs are notified via the ACGME e-Communication.

The Program Requirements for Congenital Cardiac Surgery will be available for review and comment in the spring of 2010.

MEETING AND AGENDA CLOSING DATES

Meeting: July 16-17, 2010
Agenda Closing: May 7, 2010

Meeting: Jan 7-8, 2011
Agenda Closing: October 29, 2010

Meeting: July 15-16, 2011
Agenda Closing: May 6, 2011

Accreditation Decisions – January 2010 Thoracic Surgery (82 programs) 26 Agenda Items	
Defer	1
Initial	3
Probation	2
Propose Probation	2
Propose Withhold	1
Continued Accreditation	11
Other Administrative Decisions	6
Accreditation Decisions – July 2009 Congenital Cardiac Surgery (9 programs) 1 Agenda Item	
Continued Accreditation	1

Participating Sites

The Review Committee reminds programs of the following program requirements:

I.B.2.a) Multiple abbreviated assignments among several sites or simultaneous assignments to more than one institution are not acceptable. Exceptions for physically-connected or geographically close sites require advance approval of the Review Committee.

This means that the Review Committee does not permit programs to assign residents and fellows to more than one hospital during the same rotation, unless the program has received advanced approval by the Committee because the locations are physically connected or geographically close.

I.B.2.b) Assignments of four months or more to any participating site must be approved in advance by the Review Committee.

This means that programs must receive advanced approval from the Review Committee prior to the implementation of a change in the rotation schedule for assignments of four months or greater.

Duty Hour Exceptions

Program requirement VI.G states:

A Review Committee may grant exceptions for up to 10% or a maximum of 88 hours to individual programs based on a sound educational rationale.

The Review Committee for Thoracic Surgery grants an exception only when the educational rationale provided justifies the request. Moreover, the exception is granted for a limited period of time, as specified in the letter of notification. If your program has received a duty hour exception, review the letter of notification for the term of the exception. Requests for exceptions are considered at Review Committee meetings. Please note the agenda closing dates when considering a Duty Hour exception request. Please see the Thoracic Surgery RRC webpage for more information on the required elements for a Duty Hour exception request at: http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/RRC_SharedDocs/sh_exceptcheck.pdf. Contact the Thoracic Surgery Review Committee staff at the ACGME with any questions. (RRC staff contact information can be found on Page 1 of this newsletter.)

Pathways to Residency Education in Thoracic Surgery

In addition to the traditional, “independent” residency pathway, the Review Committee for Thoracic Surgery has approved the following institutions to offer residency education in an integrated format, where residents match into the program out of medical school and spend six years in a thoracic surgery program:

1. Medical University of South Carolina
2. Medical College of Wisconsin
3. Mount Sinai School of Medicine
4. Stanford University
5. University of Maryland
6. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
7. University of Pennsylvania
8. University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
9. University of Washington

An additional pathway is the Joint General Surgery/Thoracic Surgery Track, in which residents spend four years in a general surgery residency and then complete their education in a three-year thoracic

surgery residency at the same institution.

Residents successfully completing their education in the Joint program are eligible for both ABS and ABTS certification. The list of approved institutions with this pathway is:

1. Brigham & Women's Hospital/Children's Hospital
2. Duke University
3. Massachusetts General Hospital
4. Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education (Rochester)
5. New York University School of Medicine
6. University of Maryland
7. University of Rochester
8. University of Virginia
9. University of Washington
10. Washington University School of Medicine

Thinking About Applying for an Integrated Program?

The Review Committee reminds institutions that may be considering submitting an application for an integrated program format of the following:

1. An institution's independent program must have a "Continued Accreditation" status and a cycle length of at least three years for that institution's request for an integrated program to be considered. The Committee expects institutions to maintain both program formats after an integrated program is approved.
2. A completed application for initial application must be sent to the Review Committee administrative staff at the ACGME offices.
3. Institutions whose independent programs have a targeted site visit date within 24 months of the dated signatures on the Initial Accreditation Program Information Form for the integrated program will receive a site visit as part of the application process.
4. Integrated programs, when approved, receive a separate program number, distinct from their institution's independent program number.

Useful ACGME Online Resources

- Virtual Program Director 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/ads-public/> -- click "Search Programs and Sponsors"
- Resident Survey National Data Report - available in ADS for Program Directors:
 1. Log into ADS
 2. Click "Resident/Fellow Survey"
 3. Click "National Data"
 4. DIOs select "Reporting Tools"
 5. Click "Resident Survey National Data Overall"
- Resident Survey Institutional Data Report – available in ADS for DIOs for each sponsoring institution's programs:
 1. Log into ADS
 2. Select "Reporting Tools"
 3. 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