

RRC NEWS

THORACIC SURGERY



ACGME

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

MARCH 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.

Call for New Resident Member

The RRC is accepting nominations for a resident member for the term beginning July 1, 2009. Details about nominations may be found at: http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/RRC_460/460_res-Member.asp.

Pathways to Completing Thoracic Surgery Residency Education—UPDATES

The [Fall 2008](#) Thoracic Surgery RRC Newsletter contained a list of programs approved to offer thoracic surgery residency education in the integrated program format. The RRC recently granted initial accreditation to the Medical University of South Carolina and the University of Texas-San Antonio for integrated programs in thoracic surgery.

Recent additions to the list of institutions approved to offer a Joint General Surgery/Thoracic Surgery program include:

-Massachusetts General Hospital -University of Washington

Accreditation Decisions, January 2009

Thoracic Surgery (81 Programs)

17 Agenda Items
Initial 1
Probation 1
Propose Probation 2
Propose Withhold 1
Continued Accreditation 5
Other Administrative Decisions 4

Congenital Cardiac Surgery (3 Programs)

3 Agenda Items
Initial 3

New Zip Code for ACGME

ACGME's zip code changed on July 1, 2008. Anything that is mailed or sent by Fed-Ex must reference zip code 60654. Please note that our PO Box zip code, 60610, has not changed.

ACGME Offers 2007-2008 Issue of ACGME Data Resource Book as Free Online Publication

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education is proud to announce that the wealth of statistical data in the annual ACGME Data Resource Book is available free to everyone. The 2007-2008 ACGME Data

MEETING AND AGENDA CLOSING DATES

Meeting:	July 17-18, 2009
Agenda Closing:	May 7, 2009
Meeting:	Jan 8-9, 2010
Agenda Closing:	Oct 30, 2009
Meeting:	July 16-17, 2010
Agenda Closing:	May 7, 2010

Resource Book, the sixth annual edition of the book, is posted on the ACGME website, and can also be downloaded as a PDF file: www.acgme.org/databook. The online data book includes nearly 100 pages of tables and charts with aggregate statistics on residents, programs, and institutions for academic year 2007-2008 (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008).

Among the statistical highlights in the data book:

- There are **695** institutions that sponsor residency programs. Of those, **56%** sponsor multiple residency programs and are reviewed by the Institutional Review Committee.
- There are **8,490** residency programs accredited by the ACGME that educate **107,851** physicians. During academic year 2007-2008, **89%** of programs had full accreditation, **8%** had initial accreditation, and **2%** had probationary accreditation or accreditation with warning, and **1%** had withdrawn accreditation.
- Two hundred forty-six (**246**) newly accredited programs began operation in academic year 2007-2008.
- Residency programs in the following core specialties enrolled the largest percentages of residents: internal medicine (**24.6%**), family medicine (**10.6%**), pediatrics (**9%**) and surgery (**8.2%**).
- Women comprised **41%** of all residents. Core specialties with the largest percentage of female physicians in residency programs are obstetrics and gynecology (**74%**), pediatrics (**61%**) and dermatology (**60%**).

A set of the five previous hard copy issues of the data book can be purchased for \$150 at http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/dataBook/dat_index.asp.

ACGME Resident Survey

Every year, all core programs or fellowship programs with four or more residents complete the ACGME Resident Survey. (For this purpose thoracic surgery programs are considered core programs). Results of this survey are made available to the program and the DIO for programs with a 70% or greater response rate. Programs with less than 70% response rates are resurveyed the following year. Program directors can review the resident survey immediately after the closure of the survey date.

The Resident Survey is used by the site visitor to spotlight key areas of concern as well as program strengths that the residents identified; the site visi-

tor also uses the Resident Survey to help determine serious non-compliance with duty hour standards. Increasingly, compliance with duty hours, adequate supervision, and limiting excessive service are noted as key factors that contribute to a high-quality learning environment for residents.

The RRC has requested that site visitors provide more detailed information regarding the verification of negative comments made in the numerical or comment sections of the Resident Survey, specifically, when the site visitor records that a concern is “not an issue” or “could not be verified.”

Results of resident surveys can be used as heuristic tools by program directors to improve the quality of residency education. National averages of resident surveys can be viewed on the ACGME website www.acgme.org, within the ADS section, and should be reviewed by individual programs during annual and mid-cycle internal reviews so that resident issues are identified and addressed in a timely manner.

2008 Citation Data

The top five citations issued from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 for Thoracic Surgery Programs are:

1. Responsibilities of Program Director—26%
2. The Education Program—17%
3. Resident Appointment Issues—13%
4. Institutional Support—13%
5. Educational Program - Procedural Experience—9%

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 Thoracic Surgery, at web

ADS@acgme.org.

Staff Update

Sara Thomas, Senior Accreditation Administrator has assumed new responsibilities within the ACGME. We wish her well in her new role.

The RRC is happy to welcome Cathy Ruiz, MA to the Thoracic Surgery team. Cathy comes to the ACGME from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), where for the past five years she has functioned as the Resident Education Program Coordinator in the Department of Dermatology; she worked directly with the department chairman/program director in all aspects of residency education. Cathy worked at UIC for 30 years, in a number of roles including Certified Clinical Research Coordinator and Clinical Laboratory Manager.

Cathy has a Masters of Arts in Teaching from National Louis University and a Bachelor of Science from Northeastern Illinois University.