

Winter 2008

Message from TYRC Chair

Joseph Gilhooly, MD

Welcome to the first Transitional Year Review Committee newsletter. We hope that this newsletter will be a useful communication tool for program directors and coordinators. There are many changes happening at the ACGME, and I will highlight some of them below.

New TY program requirements (TYPRs) went into effect on July 1, 2007. The overall goal of the new requirements is to improve the residents' preparation for a subsequent specialty by emphasizing the acquisition of fundamental clinical skills and increasing the academic rigor of the program. The major changes include:

Fundamental Clinical Skills (FCS)

The 24 weeks of Fundamental Clinical Skills (FCS) experiences must be taken in ACGME-accredited categorical residencies. The experiences must be equivalent to those provided to the first-year residents in the categorical programs.

Supervision

A supervising member of the faculty or a more senior resident must be available on-site when a TY resident is on call.

Evaluations Forwarded to Specialty Program Directors

For residents who have been accepted into a subsequent residency program, the

program director must forward performance evaluations to the specialty program director at least twice a year, or as specified in the specialty requirements (i.e., in July 2008, Anesthesiology will require quarterly evaluations to be forwarded). TYRC has developed a global evaluation form to be used for these twice yearly updates. The evaluation form was emailed to program directors and is available on the TY web site. We are currently piloting an on-line version of this tool transmitted through ADS for use when the subsequent program is anesthesiology.

Specialty Requirements for PGY-1

Residents entering subsequent residencies must be provided the curricular components specified by those respective specialty requirements. The TYRC has developed a chart showing the curricular requirements of the various subsequent specialties. This was emailed to program directors and will be available on our web site.

Also on our web site is an updated list of FAQs which answers common questions about the new TYPRs.

Common Program Information Form (PIF)

A new PIF, which solely address the CPRs, is now available online. Programs will fill out this portion of the PIF via ADS.

Web-based Portfolio

TYRC is also working with the ACGME Portfolio Advisory Committee. The ACGME is

developing a web-based resident learning portfolio that will house evaluations, learning activities, reflections, and other activities of residents in training. Beta testing of this tool will begin in mind-2008. We are hoping to encourage some pioneering TY programs to be beta test sites for the on-line portfolio. Let us know if you are interested. For more information on the project, go to: www.acgme.org/acWebsite/portfolio/learn_cbpac.asp.

ACGME Website: Outcome Project

Most programs are continuing to make the transition to competency-based education. To facilitate the process, the ACGME has developed slide sets on competency-based education. You can use these sets to educate yourselves, your faculty, and your residents. They can be found at www.acgme.org/Outcome/.

ACGME Welcomes New CEO

Thomas J. Nasca, MD, MACP, has been named chief executive officer of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.



Dr. Nasca comes to the ACGME from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia where he was dean of the Jefferson Medical College, senior vice president for academic affairs, and president of Jefferson University Physicians. Dr. Nasca is a board-certified internist and nephrologist, and brings 26 years of graduate medical education experience to the ACGME.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to

join the ACGME and to succeed its outstanding and visionary leader for the past 10 years, David C. Leach, MD,” said Dr. Nasca in an ACGME news release announcing his appointment. “I hope to enhance the ACGME’s legacy of excellence and sustain our commitment to improve the health of the public through outstanding graduate medical education for the future physicians of the United States.”

He succeeds Dr. Leach, who retired in Fall 2007.

New “Program Director Guide to the Common Program Requirements”

To help clarify the meaning and expectations of the common program requirements, the “Program Director Guide to the Common Program Requirements” is available on www.acgme.org. Review Committee members and staff, ACGME field staff, and program directors across specialties all provided review and input into the development of the document. The Guide will be regularly revised based on user feedback and as requirements change. Please email comments and suggestions to: Guide@acgme.org.

Program Director’s “Virtual Handbook”

Located on one central web page, the “Virtual Handbook” contains links to TYRC and RRC web pages, information for program directors and coordinators, ACGME policies and procedures, ACGME organization and staff contact information, key to standard notification letters, site visit information, and ADS, among others. The “Virtual Handbook” is located at: <http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/home/PDVirtualHandbook.asp>

CILE Pilot Projects

The Committee on Innovation in the Learning Environment (CILE) recently announced a set

of duty hour and competency pilots. Ingrid Philibert, Senior Vice President, Department of Field Activities, quoted from the first formal report of the committee, which was approved at the September meeting of the ACGME Board of Directors: "The ultimate aim of these pilots is to test proposed revisions to the common duty hour standards and refinements to the approaches for teaching and assessing the general competencies to ensure they are based on valid and 'actionable' evidence of their effectiveness."

A listing of the pilots was sent to the Review Committee Chairs and Executive Directors in August 2007.

Among the incentives for pilot participation are:

- waiver of selected program requirements
- exempting programs from a site visit during the period of the pilot (unless the program requests a site visit for a specific reason such as a request for a complement increase)
- contributing to improving the evidence base for the accreditation standards and process

For more information regarding the pilot projects, contact Mary Joyce Johnston in the Department of Field Activities at 312/755-5013.

CYPTD Update

The CTYPD had its annual meeting and educational program in Marco Island, FL on Friday, May 11, 2007 during the Association for Hospital Medical Education's (AHME) 2007 "Spring Institute". AHME is the sponsoring organization for CTYPD.

The meeting was well-attended with a slightly higher participation rate of TYPDs than in previous years. During the business

meeting, it was discussed that one of this year's goals would be to increase membership and attendance at the annual meeting. A message board specific to TYPDs has been started, and program directors were encouraged to use this as a resource for sharing ideas, networking, and discussing problem areas.

Dr. Joe Gilhooly and Linda Thorsen spent the initial morning session on an "Update from the ACGME". This annual session is always one of the highest rated. Dr. Gilhooly and Ms. Thorsen facilitated an informal discussion on "what's new" from TYRC and from the ACGME. Dr. Gilhooly discussed the new requirements, what the implications are, and what the rationale for their inclusion was. There was a lively Q&A discussion afterwards. Overall, it seems that program directors understand the new requirements, and do not have grave concerns over meeting them in their programs.

The remainder of the morning was spent in a workshop format with Dr. Gilhooly leading the group in developing competency-based goals and objectives. This was very well-received, and feedback afterwards indicated that program directors would like additional sessions of the same type in the future; they were most appreciative of such constructive guidance. Many indicated they could easily return to their programs and revise their own goals and objectives without difficulty.

The afternoon was spent in a large group Program Director Development session with Dr. Diane Hartmann, DIO at Rochester, NY, and in a second additional workshop on providing feedback by Dr. Louis Pangaro from Uniformed Services University. The final session of the day was "Best Practices" with Dr. Molly Klote from the National Capital Consortium discussing her "Intern Scavenger Hunt", and "Clinical Question" programs, and Dr. Robert Blankenship from Madigan Army Medical Center discussed his computer-based ED intern educational program.

CTYPD has been working on next year's program which includes the "Update from the TYRC and the ACGME", a panel discussion with invitations sent to the RRC Chairmen of Diagnostic Radiology, Ophthalmology, and Anesthesiology. The CTYPD has been discussing presenting a session like this for several years, and with some of the recent changes in program requirements and proposed changes, it will be a very timely session. Dr. Kris Raines is expected to discuss the "Prospective from the Site Visitor" to assist program directors prepare for site visits. A large group session on faculty and program director development is planned in the afternoon, along with another "Best Practices" session. Program directors have also asked for a session on "Initial Assessment of the New Resident", a program that is conducted at the University of Michigan.

In general, program directors seem to greatly appreciate the support and information from the TYRC, their accessibility at the CTYPD meeting, as well as the updates the TYRC provides.

The goals for the CTYPD for the next year include having a successful annual meeting in May 2008, holding elections in the spring for new officers, increasing membership in the organization, encouraging usage of the CTYPD/AHME message board for communication, and improving the CTYPD web page on the AHME site.

Accreditation Data System

The ACGME's online Accreditation Data System (ADS) alerts the TYRC to changes in programs. Program directors should update the ADS to:

- Notify the TYRC of any changes in their program (i.e., new program director or adding or deleting a site)
- Request a change which needs TYRC

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)

The ADS is also a historical resource for programs, and includes recent notification letters and previous citations.

Email is now the ACGME's major form of communication. Please ensure that e-mail addresses in the ADS are correct.

Address questions or concerns about ADS to the ADS representative for Transitional Year, Samantha Alvarado, at 312/755-7118.

TYRC Meetings and Agenda Book Closing Dates

Meeting: May 21-23, 2008
Agenda Closing: March 15, 2008

We understand that emergencies occur and we will be sensitive to your needs in these situations. However, routine agenda items will be held for the next meeting after these cut-off dates. Mailing Address:

Transitional Year Review Committee
ACGME
515 North State St., Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60610

We invite your comments: imt@acgme.org

ACGME Educational Conference 2008

Save the date for the ACGME Annual Educational Conference. It will be held Feb 28-March 1, 2008 in Grapevine, Texas. The conference sessions are designed for new program directors and residency coordinators,

as well as anyone new to the accreditation process.

Notification Letters Reminder

Since October 2006, program directors and their DIOs have been notified via email when their letter of notification has been posted on the ACGME's ADS system. Notification letters are no longer sent hard copy via US Mail. Program directors are also notified by email when a letter of notification is ready for review and printing.

PIF Revision

A comprehensive revision of Part II of the PIF was finalized at the May 2007 TYRC meeting for review by a subcommittee of the ACGME Committee on Requirements, and was posted on the ACGME website when that process was finalized. A number of changes were made in an effort to reduce the number of narrative sections, and to increase the number of *fill-in-the-blank* and *yes/no* questions. The TYRC encourages program directors to access and review the new PIF well before their next site visit.

Because of the addition of questions which address program compliance with the six ACGME competencies, program directors will no longer be required to complete and submit the CAF addendum.

Site Visit Dates via Email

Ingrid Philibert, MHA, MBA, Senior Vice President of the Department of Field Staff Activities, has announced that all programs will receive an email notification of their scheduled site visit date prior to receiving a hard copy letter of confirmation. This change was effective in the Fall of 2006 and was instituted in an effort to notify programs of a firm survey date as soon as the date is ready for release by the Department of Field Staff Activities.

Field Staff Representatives:

The Role of the Site Visitor

The formal periodic review of an ACGME-accredited program requires an on-site survey by a member of the Field Staff (FS).

Currently there are 31 [field staff representatives](#), six of whom are PhD educationalists, 25 of whom are physicians with extensive experience in graduate medical education. All have had a direct connection with GME, with a direct focus on resident education.

The ACGME field representatives conduct approximately 2,000 visits each year and travel nationwide to complete their assignments. In an ordinary week, a field representative conducts site visits of three programs. Typically, field representatives travel on Monday, and conduct site visits on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. At the end of the week, field representatives:

- finish reports for the given week
- contact programs with upcoming site visits
- submit completed site visit reports to ACGME staff
- perform other administrative tasks

FS reports are carefully reviewed by TYRC members and should reflect a field staff representative's objective observations of the program at the time of the site visit. The charge to the FS is to verify and clarify information in the PIF. VERIFY is used for confirming that attributes explained in the PIF are truly found as described. CLARIFY is used to denote the field representative's collection of added information in areas where material in the PIF is missing or is ambiguous.

New Committee Members Appointed

The TYRC welcomes Robert Bing-You, MD (Internal Medicine/Endocrinology), David Kuo,

MD, (Internal Medicine-TY Program Director), Claire Bender, MD (Radiology) and resident member Sarah Taylor, MD. TYRC appointment for Dr. Bender was effective January 1, 2007, for Drs. Kuo and Bing-You, effective July 1, 2007. Dr. Taylor began her 2-year term as resident member on July 1, 2007.

Feedback

We'd like your comments and suggestions about this newsletter. Please contact Becky Thielen, Administrative Secretary (312-755-5491, bthielen@acgme.org)

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