

Spring/Summer 2008

## Message from TYRC Chair

by Cathy Nace, MD

As we send out our second issue of the Transitional Year Review Committee (TYRC) Newsletter, we hope program directors and coordinators will find these communications a valuable resource. There continue to be many changes at the ACGME and our intent is to provide up-to-date information regarding the TYRC, as well as the latest news from the ACGME. We hope to also present some useful facts and insights on accreditation issues, new requirements, and upcoming educational meetings.

Ms. Linda Thorsen and I attended both the ACGME Educational Conference in February 2008, and the Council of Transitional Year Program Directors (CTYPD) Annual Meeting in May 2008. At the CTYPD, we presented an "Update from the TYRC", and "The New TY Requirements" and also participated in lively, and we hope, helpful, Q&A sessions with many program directors and coordinators. The TYRC agreed to add several new "FAQs" on the ACGME TY web page as a result of those discussions.

We now enter the second year of the "new" requirements, and the first year of the new Anesthesia requirement for program directors of the PG-1 year (i.e., TY) to provide evaluations to the future Anesthesia program director **quarterly**. A summary of

"Specialty-specific Requirements for PG-1 or Clinical Base Year and Frequency of Evaluations" is found on the ACGME Transitional Year website under program resources and guidance documents. We also ask that TY program directors use the electronic evaluation system for residents who have matched into an Anesthesiology residency. This system is considered a pilot project and will be evaluated for its effectiveness in approximately two years. Program directors that have used the electronic evaluation will be asked for their feedback.

A quick reminder and review of the most significant new requirements:

- 24 weeks of Fundamental Clinical Skills (FCS) experiences must be taken in ACGME-accredited categorical residencies.
- A supervising member of the faculty or more senior resident must be available on-site when a TY resident is on call.
- Performance evaluations must be forwarded to the future specialty program director at least twice a year (except for Anesthesiology, as noted above, which is quarterly).
- TY residents must be provided curricular components specified by the specialty requirements. These are especially important for Diagnostic Radiology and Anesthesiology.

A summary of these requirements is available on the ACGME TY webpage:

<http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/navPages/nav>

## **CTYPD Update**

The Annual Meeting of the Council of Transitional Year Program Directors in San Diego on May 9, 2008 was well attended by program directors and coordinators. Steven Craig, MD from the Central Iowa Health System Program in Des Moines, Iowa was elected as new Chair of the CTYPD. Dr. Nace and Ms. Thorsen provided a “TYRC Update” session which included information about TYRC committee composition, statistics on the number of TY programs, and percentages of residents who have entered the “top ten” specialties following completion of the TY program. Ms. Thorsen confirmed that the number of TY programs has gradually declined in recent years, but noted that the number of TY residents has remained the same.

Dr. Nace reviewed some of the statistics regarding Transitional Year programs and program directors from the recent issue of the ACGME “Data Resource Book”, and provided an in-depth review of the new requirements. Participants discussed the new Anesthesia curriculum requirements for the PG-1 year and the evaluation form recommended for use by the TYRC in communicating residents performance to the receiving specialty program directors.

The second session of the day focused on areas identified by the CTYPD membership. Members discussed practical issues such as outcomes measurement, the annual program review, didactics, and coverage of challenging competencies such as professionalism, systems-based practice and practice-based learning.

One of the highlights of the day was a panel discussion by Dr. Lois Bready, Chair of the Anesthesiology RRC, and Dr. Steven Amis, Chair of the Diagnostic Radiology RRC. Each Chair gave a brief presentation on

specialty issues with regard to TY residents, and the development of the new specialty requirements. The meeting participants discussed the evaluation process, what information was particularly important to the specialty program directors, and the frequency with which the TY program directors are required to send evaluations to Anesthesiology program directors.

Kris Raines, MD from the ACGME Field Staff provided a session on “View from the Site Visitor” which was very informative and well-received.

The final session of the day focused on “Best Practices” of TY programs. John Watt, MD presented his “Nightfloat” initiative which has been designed to improve the educational value of the nightfloat rotation; Steven Craig, MD presented a “Stress Assessment” initiative, and Molly Klote, MD presented her program’s “My Mistake” initiative.

Dr. Nace, past-Chair of CTYPD, led an informal and interactive session entitled “TYPD 101” for new program directors.

## **New FAQs Available**

The additions to the FAQs are available online at the ACGME TY webpage. New topics include:

- Recommended rotations for TY residents based on future specialty
- Fundamental clinical skills, required rotations in ACGME-accredited programs
- Rotations for the Anesthesiology-bound resident
- Rotations for the Radiology-bound resident
- “Transfer resident” status of Transitional Year residents

## **New CTYPD Chair: Steven Craig, MD**

Dr. Steven Craig is the Transitional Year program director for the Iowa Methodist Medical Center Program in Des Moines, Iowa. He attended the University of Iowa for his undergraduate studies, received his medical degree from the University of Iowa, and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society during medical school. Dr. Craig completed his internal medicine residency at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver, and served one year as Chief Medical Resident before returning to Des Moines in 1983. He has been very active in medical student and internal medicine medical resident education, and has received numerous teaching awards. From 1994 to 2005, Dr. Craig was the Director of the Des Moines Internal Medicine Residency Program. In addition to serving as transitional year residency program director since 2006, Dr. Craig serves as the Executive Director of the Des Moines Area Medical Education Consortium. The Consortium oversees all of the undergraduate and graduate medical education activities at five affiliated teaching hospitals in Des Moines. He recently completed a four-year elected term as Governor of the Iowa Chapter of the American College of Physicians.

As Dr. Craig assumes the role of Chair of the CTYPD he has established several immediate goals. One is to further expand membership and participation in CTYPD by all 126 ACGME-accredited transitional year residency program directors. A second goal is to further improve regular communication between CTYPD members by establishing an active email list-serve which is accessible to program directors for regular communications such as questions and concerns, as well as input and advice. A final goal is to continue to build on the programs offered at the AHME spring

educational meetings from the past several years, and to assure that the content of the CTYPD program agenda is specific and pertinent to TY program directors.

Dr. Craig welcomes input, questions, suggestions, or concerns about transitional year residency education and/or CTYPD. He can be reached at [craigsr@ihs.org](mailto:craigsr@ihs.org).

## **Introducing Resident TYRC Member: Sarah Taylor**

*by Sarah Taylor*

I serve as the resident member of the TYRC and am currently starting my third-year of the dermatology residency in the National Capital Consortium Program in Bethesda, MD. I completed my transitional internship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 2006.

As the sole resident member on the Committee, I serve to add the perspective of a recent transitional intern. Like all Committee members, I review transitional programs from around the country and actively participate at TYRC meetings.

My year as a transitional intern was challenging and exciting. Prior to my appointment to the TYRC, I had no idea how much time and effort was invested to ensure that my transitional year was educationally sound, safe, and successful. I am constantly impressed by the efforts of the TYRC and ACGME to assure that residents are educated as physicians in innovative and creative ways, and that their voices are truly heard. I am honored to be a part of the Transitional Year Review Committee and to have the chance to give back to an organization that truly values resident education.

## **ACGME Resident Survey**

Every two years, all programs with four or more residents complete the ACGME Resident Survey. 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.

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 visitor also uses the Resident Survey to help determine serious non-compliance with duty hour standards. Increasingly, the residents learning environment is noted as one of many key factors, along with duty hours, supervision, and limiting excessive service, that contribute to a high-quality learning environment.

The Review Committees have requested that site visitors provide more detailed information from Field Staff 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 may be used as heuristic tools by program directors to improve the quality of training for residents. National averages of resident surveys can be viewed on the ACGME website [www.acgme.org](http://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.

### **FAQs: Accreditation Process**

Posted below are a few frequently asked questions and answers about the accreditation process.

**Q.** What is the length of time it takes for the TYRC to review a program after a site visit occurs?

**A.** Due to TYRC timelines, your program may not be reviewed until the next regularly scheduled meeting, which may be several months from the date of the site visit. Some

site visits that occur within approximately one month before a TYRC meeting may be too late to be reviewed at that meeting. These programs will be delayed until the next TYRC meeting six months later. The TYRC meets twice a year, usually in the summer and in the winter to review programs.

**Q.** What happens at the meeting?

**A.** Two reviewers (first and second) present their review of each program to the TYRC members. Each reviewer has identified non-compliance issues (with program requirements), areas of best practice, and commendation to the program, if indicated. The TYRC reaches consensus on each program reviewed as to accreditation status, areas of noncompliance, the approximate date/year of the next site visit, and program commendations, if applicable.

**Q.** What happens after the meeting?

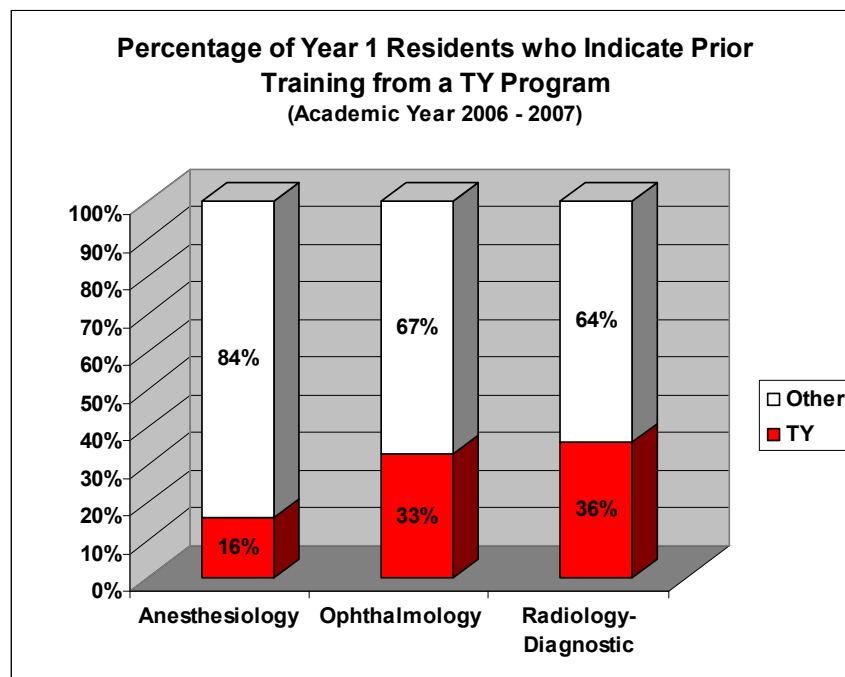
**A.** After the meeting, TYRC staff prepare an e-mail notification for each scheduled program within a week of the meeting confirming the Committee’s accreditation decision. A formal notification letter, which includes areas of noncompliance with the program requirements, will be posted to WebADS for access by the program director and the DIO within sixty days.

### **TYRC Data**

The following charts represent data that were reviewed at the May 2008 TYRC meeting. Program directors and coordinators are encouraged to take note of the data to help improve their programs.

**Percentage of Specialty Programs That Accepted TY Residents**  
(Academic Year 2006 – 2007)

Specialty	% Taking TY Residents	% Not Taking TY Residents
Ophthalmology	70%	30%
Radiology-Diagnostic	68%	32%
Anesthesiology	53%	47%



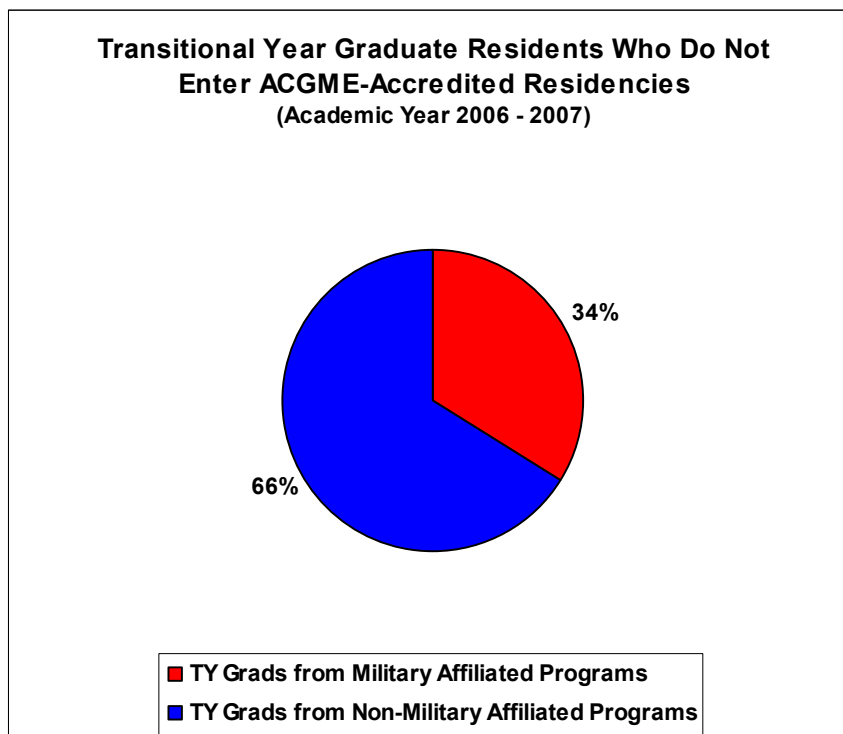
**Specialties Entered by Graduates of Transitional Year Programs**  
(Academic Year 2006 – 2007)

Specialty	Graduates Now Active	Percent
Radiology-Diagnostic	333	26.6%
Anesthesiology	214	17.1%
Ophthalmology	167	13.3%
Dermatology	72	5.2%

<b>PM&amp;R</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
<b>Other specialties</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>14%</b>

**Most Common Citations for Transitional Year Programs  
(July 1, 2005 to Present)**

<b>Citation Code</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b># of Citations</b>
4.B	The Education Program	Curricular Development	9.66%	37
3.B	Program Personnel & Resources	Responsibilities of Program Director	8.88%	34
1.A	Institutional Support	Sponsoring Institution	8.62%	33
1.B	Institutional Support	Program Director	8.62%	33
1.C	Institutional Support	Participating Institution	7.31%	28
4.A	The Education Program	Goals and Objectives	6.53%	25
4.I	The Education Program	Scholarly Activities	5.48%	21
5.A	Evaluation	Evaluation of Residents	4.96%	19
4.E	The Education Program	Didactic Components	4.44%	17
4. H	The Education Program	Service to Education Imbalance	4.44%	17
4.J	The Education Program	Supervision	4.18%	16



<b>Affiliation</b>	<b># of Residents</b>
<b>Military</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Non-Military</b>	<b>162</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>245</b>

## Accreditation Data System

The ACGME's online ADS alerts the TYRC to changes in programs. Program directors should update 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). The request for a permanent increase in the resident complement must include a copy of the institutional data for all participating sites. Only one academic or one calendar year of data is necessary.
- 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 Transitional Year, Emilio Villatoro at 312/755-7117, [evillatoro@acgme.org](mailto:evillatoro@acgme.org).

## Description of a DIO

DIO refers to the Designated Institutional Official. This individual has the authority and responsibility for all ACGME-accredited GME programs. The DIO signs the PIF and also receives a copy of the program's accreditation status. The DIO is required to co-sign most correspondence between the institution and the ACGME.

## Short Form of the PIF

The short form of the PIF is no longer available for use by any programs regardless of the length of the accreditation cycle. Programs are directed to use the full-length PIF for their program reviews:

[http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/TYRC\\_02](http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/TYRC_02)

[0/020\\_pifIndex.asp](#).

## Voluntary Withdrawal Requests

Programs are required to enter requests for voluntary withdrawal of accreditation (VW) using ADS only. Written letters of request will no longer be processed.

Programs initiate the request by answering a series of questions, including the proposed effective date, the reason for program closure, and a plan to place any active residents in other programs. After the DIO/GMEC approves the request, the information is forwarded to the ACGME ADS system and is available to the TYRC for processing. When the program is reviewed by the TYRC, and receives formal approval, the request will automatically be removed from the report.

## 2009 Educational Meetings

ACGME Educational Conference  
March 5-8, 2009  
Grapevine, TX (Dallas)  
[www.acgme.org](http://www.acgme.org)

CTYPD Annual Meeting  
April 17-18, 2009  
Savannah, GA  
[www.ahme.org](http://www.ahme.org)

## ACGME Educational Conference 2008 Recap

Each year, the ACGME Annual Educational Conference provides a venue for graduate medical educators to learn more about the accreditation process and ways to enhance residency program quality related to ACGME initiatives, such as general competencies, educational outcome assessment, and duty hours. This year's conference theme "Building Community, Improving Quality" emphasized how better education and better patient care can occur when individuals in diverse roles work

together toward shared goals.

Post-conference information is available at:  
[http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/meetings/  
me\\_EducConf\\_08.asp](http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/meetings/me_EducConf_08.asp)

## **TYRC Meetings and Agenda Closing Date**

Meeting: October 29-30, 2008  
*Agenda Closing: August 1, 2008*

Meeting: May 6-8, 2009  
*Agenda Closing: March 1, 2009*

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We invite your comments: [imt@acgme.org](mailto:imt@acgme.org)

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