

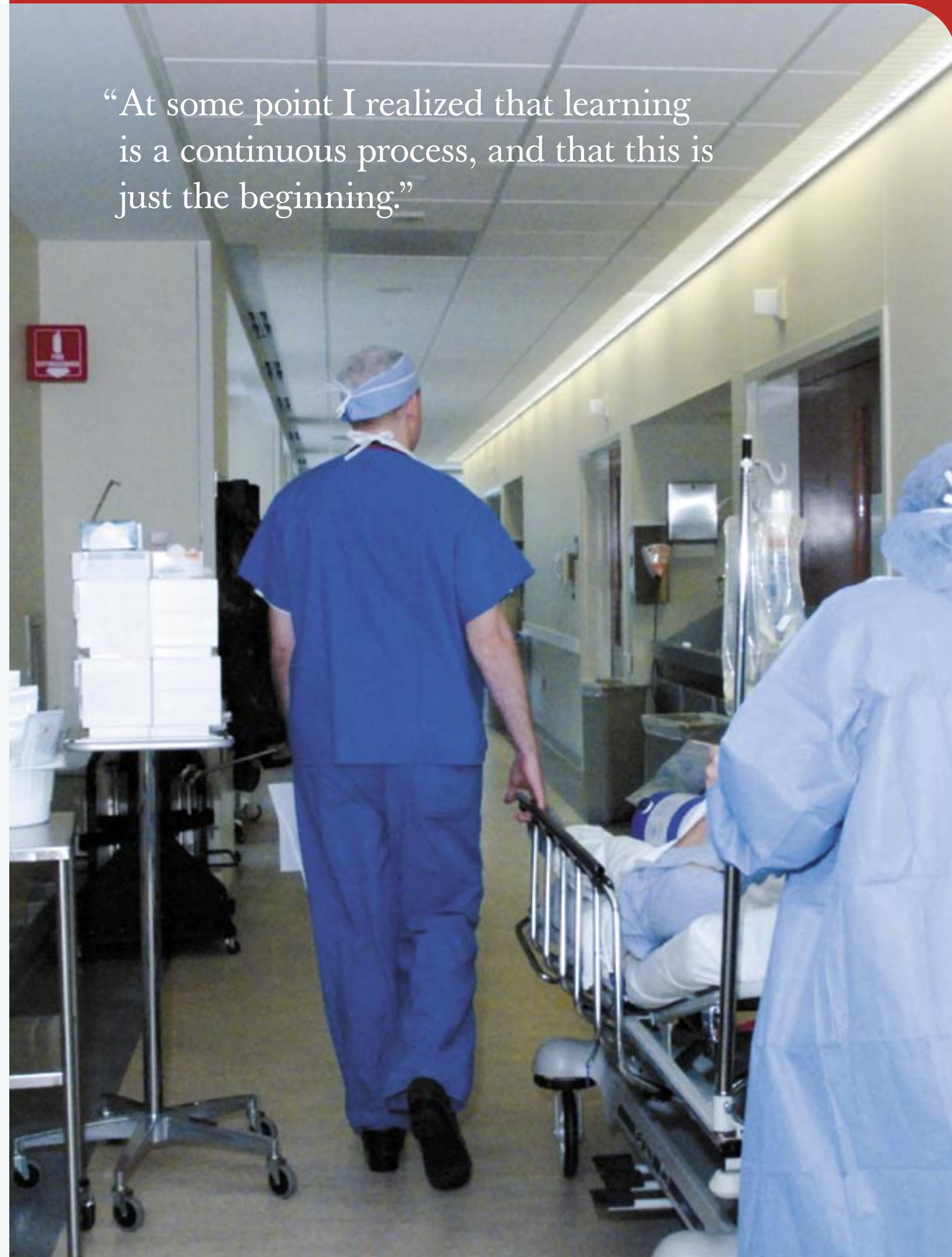


ACGME

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education is a private, non-profit organization that accredits about 8,200 residency programs in the United States that educate 103,000 physicians-in-training in 27 specialties and 99 subspecialties. Its mission is to improve health care by assessing and advancing the quality of resident physicians' education through accreditation.

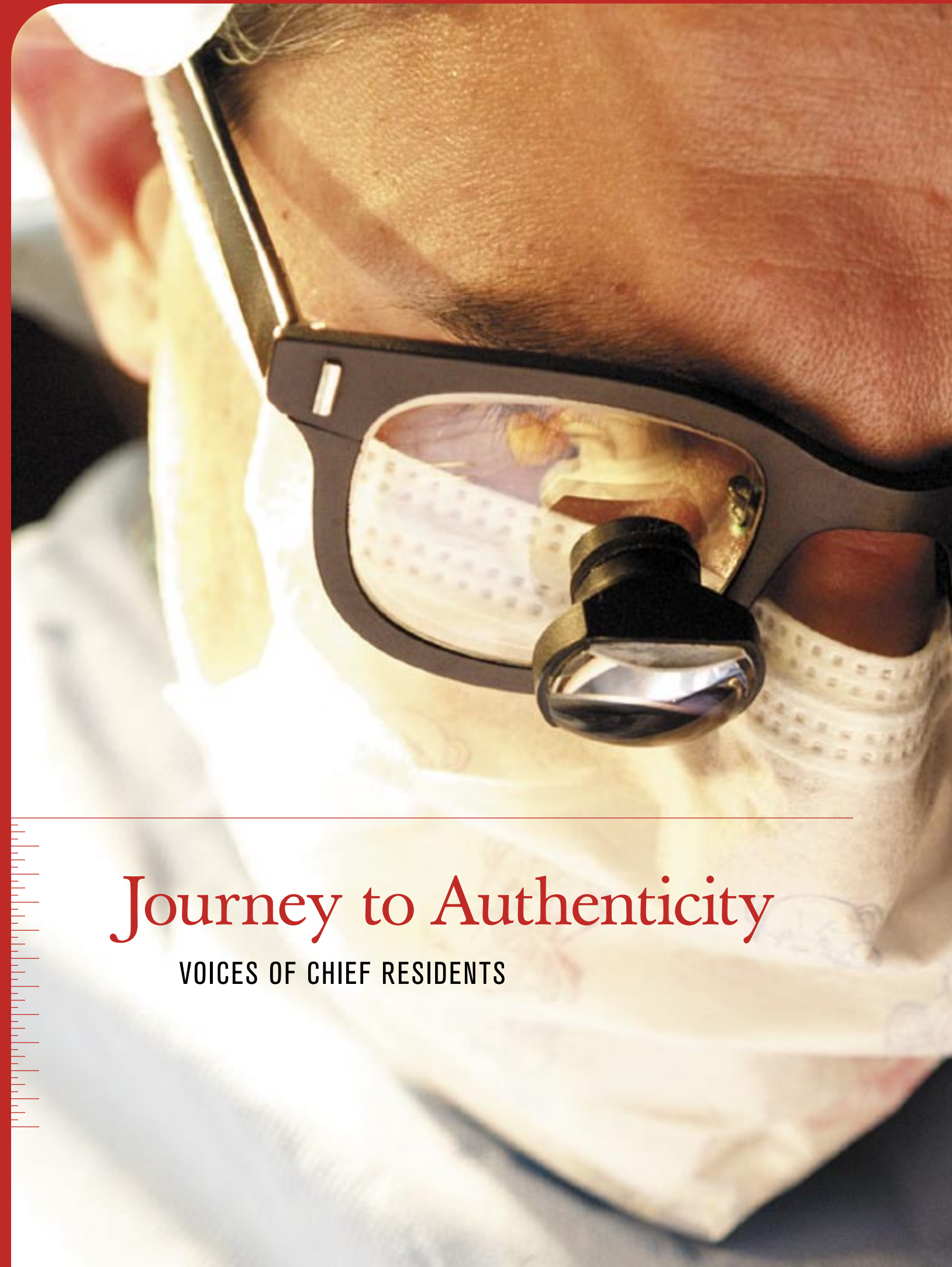
For more information, visit the ACGME's Web site, www.acgme.org.

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Graduate Medical Education
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“At some point I realized that learning is a continuous process, and that this is just the beginning.”

Journey to Authenticity VOICES OF CHIEF RESIDENTS



Journey to Authenticity

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Every year, thousands of newly minted physicians fresh out of medical school begin the next stage of their education: their residency programs. Over the next three to seven years – through study, hard work and practice under the close supervision of experienced physicians – these young doctors evolve from green interns into confident, capable physicians. In the last year of their education, some of these residents become chief residents. They may be appointed by the faculty or elected by their peers; each may be the only chief resident or one of many. All, however, are chosen for their excellent clinical skills and leadership abilities. As chief residents, they lead the team of residents and serve as liaisons between the residents and faculty, while also preparing for their board examinations and the launch of their own careers as board-certified physicians.

In this book, 20 chief residents, who were recommended by their program directors to be featured in this volume, reflect on their journeys from interns to chief residents. They talk about why they became doctors, what they have learned about themselves and their profession, and how they have changed and grown along the way. One physician talks about how his grandfather inspired him to become a doctor. Another chief resident describes the deep bond that developed among the residents in her class. A surgeon reflects on what she learned from caring for patients in a hospice. An ophthalmologist explains why he walked away from his career as a Wall Street trader to attend medical school. A military surgeon tells why treating veterans of the Iraq War changed her life. They talk about difficult cases, moments of doubt, leaps of confidence, the encouragement of mentors and the support of their families.

Each resident's story is unique, but a common thread runs through all of them: residency is not simply about learning the skills of medicine. It is also a “journey to authenticity.”