

Infectious Diseases Accredited Training in International Health (IH) Residency Review Committee for Internal Medicine (RC-IM) Action

Last Updated: February 17, 2011

The RC-IM supports initiatives that promote training in international health (IH) for fellows in ACGME accredited infectious diseases (ID) programs.

1. The RC-IM will review requests for a two to twelve month IH experience on a program-by-program basis. Programs interested in providing such experiences must complete and submit to the RC the ACGME's proposal for innovative projects, located here http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/navpages/nav_program_experimentation.asp.
2. The proposal must list the specific requirements that program would like the RC to waive. Programs do not need to submit an innovation proposal if:
 - Experience/rotation is less than six weeks in duration, or
 - Fellows go abroad outside the accredited years of training.
 - Fellows who take a leave of absence from the two accredited years of training to work abroad.
3. Only proposals from programs with a review cycle of three years or longer will be considered.
4. Programs will need to delineate specific competency-based goals and objectives for this experience and the methods by which fellows be evaluated.
5. Programs must demonstrate how the educational experience offsets the unfulfilled program requirement(s) that cannot be met abroad.
6. Programs must address how the IH experience will ensure that fellows receive an adequate:
 - Continuity Clinic Experience: There must be a continuity experience for fellows at the site.
 - Core Conferences: Core conferences must be maintained. This may be accomplished in different ways including replication of the core conferences at the site or by electronic participation in home institution conferences, either live or archived.
 - Supervision: Fellows must be supervised by at least one qualified ID physician who will serve as the Key Clinical Faculty (KCF) for the IH rotation. This KCF must be ABIM certified in the specialty, or have significant ID experience and training documented such that it is acceptable to home institution and the RC-IM. The program should be able to justify to the RC-IM that the supervising physician is in fact adequate to teach the fellows at the distant site.
 - Twelve Month Longitudinal Experience: Programs must specify how and where fellows will achieve this requirement.

Programs that do not adequately address how compliance with these requirements will be ensured will not have their proposals approved.

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7. The ID program director is responsible for all aspects of the IH experience. This includes:
 - The appointment of a local site director, who will be responsible to the program director for the fellows' experience(s);
 - Executing a program letter of agreement with the IH supervisor/local site director (note: the site director may also serve as a key clinical faculty member for the program); and
 - Monitoring the quality of the educational experience, and the fellows' compliance with program requirements.

8. Some additional information related to this issue:
 - All twelve months of clinical training must occur in the United States.
 - The IH experience must be an elective (not required).
 - The site to be used for the IH experience will need to be approved by the RC-IM as a "participating site" if the IH experience is greater than three months in duration.
 - The program must provide evidence of sufficient salary support and institutional/departmental support of salary and institutional benefits.
 - At completion of the experience, the fellow will be required to complete an RC-IM fellow questionnaire. This will provide the RC-IM with information to track and evaluate the fellows' experiences.
 - At the program's accreditation site visit, the program must provide a mechanism for the site visitor to interview the fellows assigned at the international site.
 - The RC will evaluate the program's continued participation in the IH experience at the time of its regular occurring review.