



Accreditation Council for
Graduate Medical Education

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To: Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery Program Directors

From: Dee Fenner, MD
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American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology/American Board of Urology

Mary Joyce Johnston, RHIA, MJ
Associate Executive Director, Review Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology
Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)

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Over the past year, we have made significant progress in the accreditation and certification processes for female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery. Through collaboration and hard work by the leadership of American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG), American Board of Urology (ABU), Society for Urodynamics and Female Urology (SUFU), American Urogynecologic Society (AUGS), and the ACGME, we are nearing the completion of a 20-year project.

We wanted to update you on the ACGME process for program accreditation in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery (FPMRS) fellowships. We suggest sharing this letter with your designated institutional official (DIO) or GME committee (GMEC) to discuss the transition of your program from ABOG/ABU accreditation to ACGME accreditation in the 2012-2013 academic year. This change may have implications in terms of your fellow funding.

Important Information from the ACGME

- The ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in FPMRS and program information forms (PIF) should be finalized by June 30, 2012. A document of frequently asked questions (FAQs) will also be available to clarify the Program Requirements and to provide direction and details for the completion of the PIF. All of these documents will be available on the Review Committee's web page on the ACGME website, www.acgme.org, this summer.

If your program wishes to participate in the first wave of the transition, a completed PIF will be **due in November 2012** (exact date to be determined). **NO** site visits will be conducted for programs accredited by the ACGME during this first cycle. The Review Committee will meet in January 2013 to review and determine program accreditation. If your program chooses not to apply for ACGME accreditation in November 2012, applications can be submitted at any time thereafter. Programs that apply for accreditation after the first wave will have a site visit and be reviewed at the next

scheduled Review Committee meeting following receipt of the application. The Review Committee meets every May, October, and January. Once approved, fellow data collection will move to the OpLog system similar to that used by other residency programs.

Important Information from ABOG/ABU

- The ABOG/ABU Board will extend all program accreditations until January 2014 to allow programs one year to make this transition. NO new program applications are being accepted currently. All new programs should wait and apply in November 2012 for ACGME accreditation.
- Annual reports for the 2011-2012 year will be collected and reviewed as usual to ensure that fellows continue to have the needed patient care volume and academic rigor during this transition period. The annual report data mirrors the information needed for the ACGME PIF such that the program directors will be collecting the same data for both reports this July.
- The ABOG/ABU Board will function as the certifying body for individuals meeting the requirements for FPMRS certification. The first Senior written examinations will be given in June 2013. The first fellow written examinations will be given in June 2013. The first oral examinations for the obstetrics and gynecology-based FPMRS certification will be given in April 2015. There will be no oral examination for Senior applicants. The Bulletins for the obstetrics and gynecology-based certification processes are available at www.ABOG.org. The Bulletins for the urology-based certification process will be coming soon from the ABU.
- A new "Guide to Learning" was posted on the ABOG website. This Guide will be the core of the ACGME curriculum and ABOG/ABU will use the Guide as a basis for the written examinations.

We hope this answers many of your questions. We will keep you updated on any changes and as the documents and forms are finalized. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Cathy Cash at the ABOG office.

Additionally, we have provided contact information for the current Review Committee staff member at the ACGME below, who is available to assist you:

- Mary Joyce Johnston, RHIA, MJ, Associate Executive Director
(P) 312.755.5013 (direct line)
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We are excited to continue to facilitate our specialty and programs through this important transition!