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Thomas J. Nasca, MD, MACP
Chief Executive Officer
Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

As representatives of the Medical Genetics Residency Program Director's SIG of the Association of the Professors of Human and Medical Genetics, we support the ACGME’s resident duty hour requirements.

We are supportive of any duty hour changes or work environment requirements that promote a strong learning environment and ensure the health and welfare of resident physicians. These issues are discussed and reviewed at our annual meeting for program directors, and through our email listserv. We have no further recommendations or comments on the current accreditation requirements for resident duty hours as they reflect the learning and working environment.

Medical Genetics residents take call from home, and it is rare for them to be required to return to the hospital during the night so they rarely are affected by the duty hour requirements. Given the unique nature of the medical genetics training there is little implication for costs or implementation of duty hour requirements on patient care and learning or burden on monitoring of duty hours. Residents in combined residencies (eg, Pediatrics-Medical Genetics, Maternal Fetal Medicine-Medical Genetics) are sometimes required to do in house call as part of their ‘non-genetics’ residency training, but the duty hours compliance associated with those programs are monitored by the partner residency programs (eg, Maternal Fetal Medicine/Ob Gyn, Pediatrics). And some categorical residents may be asked to do in house call as part of their obligation to their sponsoring department (eg, Obstetrics and Gynecology) but again duty hour compliance is upheld.

We would be willing to participate in the ACGME annual Congress if our presence would be deemed beneficial given the limited impact the duty hours have on the learning and working environment in medical genetics.

Respectfully submitted,

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