

## Greetings!

Enclosed you'll find news updates, resources, and highlights of our global efforts to improve health care worldwide.

### Review Committee-International News

The December 2016 International Review Committee (RC-I) meetings marked the first meeting of the two new committees with all reviewers in attendance. The ACGME-I web page has more information about the responsibilities and membership of the new Committees [here](#).

The new RC-I structure was developed to provide true peer review. Members were chosen to allow broader representation of content expertise and to represent countries where ACGME-I accredits programs and institutions. At their December 2016 meeting, each Committee chose a Chair and Vice Chair from their members.

The RC-I's made accreditation decisions for 26 programs seeking Initial Accreditation and 11 programs and sponsoring institutions that are currently accredited. Other actions include:

1. Revision of Advanced Specialty requirements for Anesthesiology, Dermatology, Diagnostic Radiology, Ophthalmology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Preventive Medicine and Radiation Oncology related to requirements for the pre-clinical year. The proposed revision is on the [ACGME-I web site](#) and is open for public comment until April 1, 2017. Your comments are important and welcome. The *Question of the Quarter* in this newsletter explains the importance of public comment.
2. A discussion of the use of resident case logs. Resident case logs will be an important part of the annual review of programs in Singapore that are transitioning to the Next Accreditation System. They are also used by the RC-I to evaluate the breadth and depth of resident experience, to review and set resident complement and to consider citations related to specific case numbers contained in Advanced Specialty requirements. The RC-I determined that minimum case numbers established in the United States would be used for these purposes. See the article in this quarter's newsletter for more information on why accurate and complete case log reporting is so important.
3. A discussion of implementation of the Next Accreditation System (NAS-I) in Singapore. As part of that discussion, the RC-I determined the self-study visit schedule for all programs in Singapore. All residency and fellowship programs in Singapore will receive a letter with a revised date for their next scheduled visit in the next few months.

RC-I's will meet twice a year, generally in June or July and in December through 2017. The next meeting will be held 20-22 July 2017 with the agenda closing 8 June 2017.



### Question of the Quarter

Each quarter, this section of the ACGME-I newsletter answers a different question applicable to all ACGME-I-accredited programs. This quarter's question has to do with the value of commenting on a revision of ACGME-I requirements or those ACGME requirements that impact international residents.

The Question of the Quarter is, "Is making a comment during the ACGME or ACGME-I public comment period worth my time?"

The short answer to this question is "YES".

The purpose of soliciting comments is to encourage participation of the graduate medical education community in the process of revising requirements. Soliciting and receiving public comments is a critical part of the development of requirements since comments provide valuable insight into how requirements are understood and how they may be applied by those responsible for the day-to-day care of patients and education of residents and fellows.

All comments received on the form provided and by the deadline date are considered by the ACGME or ACGME-I committee responsible for final adoption. Comments should address a specific requirement or reference specific language and should precisely indicate how the language should change, or verify the benefit of the requirement. Feedback on additional elements, not included in the document is also welcome. Comments will either result in a change in requirement language or may form the basis for an FAQ to more clearly explain the requirement's intent.

The ACGME-I community will be informed when comments are being solicited through this newsletter.

Please consider responding, and thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts.

### Clinical Experience: How Do We Measure It? Why Is It Important?

There is an American expression about "counting beans." This is generally used in the context of triviality or meaningless activity. In accreditation, some might apply this concept to how faculty members and residents justify that sufficient clinical experience is occurring in a program. Understandably, some regard the accreditation requirements as nothing more than time-consuming work. But it does matter to document clinical experience! Here are three good reasons:

1. Becoming competent in a specialty requires that residents actually have clinical experience. It is a basic tenet of graduate medical education. The ACGME-I expects both that each resident in an accredited program will have sufficient experience, and that there is documentation this has occurred.
2. Many future employers want to know how much clinical experience a recent graduate has; this may be expected at the time of an interview, or on an application for entering a board certification process, or on an application for further training (increasingly this is the case for US ACGME-accredited fellowship programs).
3. Accreditation standards are evolving internationally. Singapore will soon convert to the Next Accreditation System-International, in which clinical experience is one of the main outcome indicators. Accurate recording of resident clinical experience provides the Review Committees-International with accurate information to use in their annual review of each program.

The ACGME-I's data collection system (the Accreditation Data System, or ADS) is a significant repository for compiling a resident's accurate portrayal of clinical experience. In staff's review of current practice, there is a concern that not all data is being entered. Low numbers do not correlate to what staff and site visitors hear when visiting with programs. The Review Committees-International are likewise concerned that data entry be taken seriously, and will look with increasing emphasis at such data. Though this may seem to be a "counting beans" activity, our experience shows that for the three above listed reasons as well as others the main beneficiary of this data entry is the resident. Programs, too, benefit, as a consistent review of resident experience can lead to curricular changes which provide a more consistent and broader education.

### 2017 ACGME Annual Educational Conference

We encourage our international colleagues to attend the ACGME Annual Educational Conference 9-12 March 2017. This year's event, the theme of which is *Igniting Innovation*, will be held at the Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Florida.

The following features of the conference are particularly noteworthy:

1. A special international track will feature three sessions tailored for ACGME-I programs:

\* *Accreditation Challenges for Medical Educators*  
Speakers: Dr. Lim Boon Ling (Singapore) and Dr. Kerling Israel (Haiti)

\* *Crossing the Cultural Chasms: A Different Kind of CCC*  
Speakers: Dr. Michelle Morse, with experience educating in Haiti, Rwanda, and Vietnam, and Dr. Ricardo Correa (Panama; now teaching in the US)

\* *Review Committees-International Update*  
Speakers: ACGME-I Executive Director Dr. Lorraine Lewis, and Review Committee members Dr. Maha Al-Fahim (Abu Dhabi) and Dr. Wallace Carter (US) will discuss important directions and changes for ACGME-I accreditation

2. Plenary sessions feature leading experts in medical education, including Dr. Thomas Nasca, CEO of ACGME and ACGME-I, and Dr. Kelley Skeff, whose efforts are concentrated in faculty development and physician well-being.
3. Hundreds of sessions on diverse topics, including the Milestones, quality improvement, evaluative processes, remediation of residents, and feedback techniques.
4. The ACGME-I's Drs. Susan Day and Lori Lewis will be available for individual meetings to address particular issues regarding accreditation. To sign up for a meeting, the ACGME-I box at [acgme-i@acgme-i.org](mailto:acgme-i@acgme-i.org). Additionally, the staff of the Accreditation Data System (ADS) will be available on a walk-in basis to address technical questions or concerns. This service will be available from 9:45 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday (10-11 March).

**A reception with light refreshments for international attendees is planned for Friday March 10, 2017 5:30 to 7:00pm (EST) in the Conway Room.**

Online conference registration remains open until Friday, February 10. After that date, on-site registration is available at the conference. Other details regarding registration and hotel availability can be found on the [ACGME website](#).

We look forward to seeing you there!



### Did You Know?

- That two new International Awards will be presented at the 2018 ACGME Annual Education Conference to leaders integrally involved in the transition to ACGME-I accreditation. One award is for a physician and one award is for a coordinator. Deadline for nominations is 31 March. Criteria and nomination forms are available from the News and Announcements page on the ACGME International website.
- That there are new Program Application forms and Continued Accreditation PIFs? Make sure to use the current version for the next review of your program. These forms (and the latest Advanced Specialty requirements) can be accessed from your specialty's page which can be accessed from [here](#).
- That past issues of the ACGME-I Newsletter are now on our web page [here](#).
- That a new Accreditation Story featuring Sheikh Khalifa Medical City (SKMC) in Abu Dhabi is now on [our web page](#).
- That the International Milestones are being revised and are scheduled for completion in 2017. Information on International Milestones will be highlighted in the next *ACGME-I News*.
- That in 2016 ACGME-I had a 32% increase in the number of programs and sponsoring institutions it accredits? ACGME-I now accredits 135 programs including 97 residencies and 38 fellowships in six countries.