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

International Offerings at Annual Educational Conference

ACGME International looks forward to welcoming you to the Annual Educational Conference, 25-28 February in National Harbor, Maryland. You will find approximately 4,000 attendees who, just like you, are passionate about improving education for young physicians. This meeting is a perfect opportunity to expand your knowledge, network with others in your specialty, advance your effectiveness in teaching, and socialize with colleagues from around the world.

The program will feature plenary sessions with internationally-renowned educators; sessions designed for faculty members, program directors, and designated institutional officials (DIOs); sessions focusing on patient safety, competency-based education, and supervision; and sessions specifically designed for international attendees.

There will be three sessions sponsored by the ACGME International team, all on Saturday, 26 February. Each will include speakers from the international community. The first focuses on the rewards and challenges of ACGME-I accreditation. The second will review the workings of the Review Committee-International, and will include changes to the Program Requirements that were recently approved at the Committee’s December 2015 meeting. The third session will define opportunities for US
residents in the international community, and reciprocally those for ACGME-I residents in the US.

In addition to these three sessions, there are many other programs that will be of interest to the international audience, including one offered by medical education leadership that addresses the ACGME-I experience from their perspectives.

Finally, please join us for the international reception Friday night the 25th- you will be able to mingle with people from all over the world. The reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Cherry Blossom Ballroom.

Individual sessions for assistance with accreditation requirements (with Drs. Day and Lewis), as well as with representatives from Accreditation Data System (ADS) staff, will also be available.

Please contact DeLonda Dowling, ddowling@acgme.org, for advance scheduling.

Welcome to New Participants in ACGME-I

We are proud to announce that three new contracts have recently been signed with ACGME-I. Each of these institutions and educational organizations has an ultimate goal of obtaining ACGME-I accreditation. King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital (KKESH) is a world-renowned eye institute and will be the first to seek ACGME-I accreditation in Saudi Arabia. A second contract is with Mirebalais Hospital in Haiti, and a third with the University of Panama, Panama City. Each of these houses multiple residencies that will be seeking accreditation in the future.
At its December 2015 meeting in Doha, Qatar, the Review Committee-International made accreditation decisions for 23 residency programs and three Sponsoring Institutions in four countries. In addition to reviewing programs, the Committee considered comments received during the public comment period for several changes to ACGME-I Advanced Specialty Requirements.

First, the Committee adopted Advanced Specialty Requirements for a new fellowship program in Critical Care Medicine-Internal Medicine. These Advanced Specialty Requirements are effective immediately, and are available on the ACGME-I website, here. Applications for critical care medicine-internal medicine fellowships seeking ACGME-I accreditation will be available and on the website soon.

The Committee also authorized development of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to provide an interpretation of the new requirements. FAQs are available on each specialty-specific page on the ACGME-I website, which can be accessed here.

Second, the Committee adopted revisions to several Advanced Specialty Requirements. The following revised requirements are effective 1 July 2017, and are currently available on the ACGME-I website, here:

- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Pathology
- Pediatrics

The Committee decided to postpone consideration of the Advanced Specialty Requirements in Diagnostic Radiology so that it could review a major revision in the US Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Diagnostic Radiology, scheduled for 2016. The Committee also allowed for variable length for all ACGME-I-accredited educational programs effective immediately. This change will provide the option to add 12
months to the program length that has been established for all residencies and fellowships.

New programs can determine their length of education at the time they apply for ACGME-I accreditation.

Currently-accredited programs will be able to change the length of training. Details on how the ACGME-I is to be notified of changes in program length will be coming soon. As programs consider lengthening their educational duration, it will be important to consider that this change will result in more residents being enrolled, which will require more core and total faculty to meet the required faculty-to-resident ratios. Changes may also need to be made in participating sites, regularly scheduled didactic sessions, and clinical rotations. Note that the entire program will need to change length. The ACGME-I will not permit individual residents or fellows to elect to complete programs of variable lengths.

Finally, the Committee allowed residency programs in internal medicine and general surgery to accept preliminary residents, and allowed those programs that require a clinical year to elect to integrate that clinical year into the categorical residency. These changes are effective 1 July 2016. More information on these changes will be available on the ACGME-I website, and will be summarized in our next ACGME-I newsletter.

**Question of the Quarter**

This section of the ACGME-I newsletter will answer a different Frequently Asked Question applicable to all ACGME-I-accredited programs. This quarter's question has to do with faculty member qualifications:

**Question:** What board certification is acceptable for physician faculty members?
[International Foundational Requirement II.B.4.a]

**Answer:** Acceptable faculty certification has been granted by an autonomous authority that requires a written and sometimes oral examination with specific pass criteria. Certification may be time-limited, and may require a renewal process or examination. Examples of acceptable certification would be those granted by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), American Board of Medical Specialties-International (ABMS-I), Arab Board, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Saudi Board, or the Specialists Accreditation Board (SAB) in Singapore.

Clinical fellowships or PhD degrees are considered additional training, and while they add to the expertise of faculty members, they do not equal certification. Additionally, attestation of faculty member competence from the Sponsoring Institution or advanced specialty
educational program has not been conferred by an autonomous authority and does not equate to certification.

Please Send Us Your Feedback
We would love your feedback on our e-newsletter! We aim to provide you content that is informative and interesting. Please e-mail acgme-i@acgme-i.org to tell us the types of news and information that would be most engaging and beneficial to you.