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

Review Committee-International approves variable program lengths for ACGME-I-accredited programs

At its 2015 December meeting, the Review Committee-International approved the option for a program director to request adding 12 months to the length of their residency or fellowship program.

Approved lengths for all ACGME-I-accredited residencies and fellowships are listed on the ACGME-I website [here](#). Prior to requesting an additional 12 months, program directors and DIOs should carefully review FAQs related to adding 12 months to the length of the program which are on the ACGME-I website [here](#).

To request an additional 12 months, the program director must complete all information on the request form available on the ACGME-I web site [here](#) and submit it to their Designated Institutional Official (DIO) for approval.

The DIO must then complete the request form and submit it to acgme-i@acgme-i.org before **JUNE 15, 2016**.

Note that these changes are effective July 1, 2016. Programs requesting an additional 12 months may need to revise their program information in the Accreditation Data System (ADS) to maintain compliance with International Foundational and Advanced Specialty Requirements. Updated information can be entered in ADS after July, 1 and must be completed by August, 1.

Documents and Resources on the ACGME-I website
The ACGME-I website is a great place to find resources to assist programs and institutions. Many of these valuable resources can be found on a page called Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). What can you find on this page? Here is a sample:

- 2014-2015 ACGME-I Data Book
- Clinical Competency Committees, A Guidebook for Programs
- Guide for Out-of-Country Postings
- Key to Standard Notification Letters for programs and institutions

**Connecting our efforts**

As the number of ACGME-I-accredited programs increases, this growth identifies an expanded need for communication with designated institutional officials (DIOs), program directors, faculty members, and program coordinators. We are making a concerted effort to reach out to you using distance education technology. Our Chicago staff now includes distance learning specialist. Anne Gravel Sullivan has worked with the ACGME-I team on several pilot projects, including developing tools addressing responsibilities and frequently asked questions pertaining to the Graduate Education Committee (GMEC), and Case Log entry in the Accreditation Data System (ADS). We would very much appreciate hearing from you on what other topics might be useful. Current thoughts include the following:

* a primer for new program coordinators and new program directors
* "PIF"-manship - assistance in proper comprehensive completion of the Program Information Form
* faculty development (specific topics, please!)
* how the Review Committee-International works
* effective evaluative processes
* application process for new programs

The goal of the ACGME-I in providing training via distance education is to provide important and timely information in a way that is easy for all ACGME-I-accredited programs to access, use, and then refer to again. Distance education technology will make it possible to set up virtual discussion groups based on common interests or job positions, and form networks of people associated with GME across large distances. Although distance education will never replace face-to-face key person visits to ACGME-I programs and institutions, we know from education research that use of technology is one of the tools we can use to effectively keep you informed and up-to-date.
We thank you in advance for any topical suggestions or input as we develop this new resource.

**ACGME-I welcomes new members**

We welcome two new members to the ACGME-I team. Ms. Paula Espindola joins us as the Director for ACGME-I. Her experience of over 20 years includes a background in accreditation, compliance, policy/procedure development, and financial expertise. She holds a Master's degree in public health from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Loyola University. Paula speaks fluent Spanish. Please reach out to her with any questions regarding scheduling of site visits and mock site visitor arrangements. Her e-mail is pespindola@acgme-i.org.

Ms. Ida Haynes is our new Administrative Assistant. Her past experience includes administrative work with non-profit medical organizations and teaching linguistic competence. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from Loyola University and a cultural exchange at Cambridge University. Having lived in Spain for two years, she too is fluent in Spanish. Contact Ida for assistance with navigation of the ACGME-I website, as well as directing inquiries to specific staff members. Her e-mail is ihaynes@acgme-i.org.

**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 membership on the Clinical Competency Committee (CCC):

**Question:**
Can the program director serve on the CCC? Can he/she chair it?

[International Foundational Program Requirement, V.A.1.a]

**Answer:**
The requirements regarding the CCC do not preclude or limit a program director's participation on the committee. The intent is to leave flexibility for each program to decide...
the best structure for its own circumstances. A program should consider the program director's other roles as resident advocate, advisor, and confidante; the impact of the program director's presence on the CCC members' discussions and decisions; the size of the program faculty; and other program-specific factors. The role of the CCC is to advise the program director. The program director has final responsibility for resident evaluation, promotion, and dismissal.

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.