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

ACGME-I Requests Public Comment

The Review Committee-International invites comments on several changes to International Advanced Specialty Program Requirements. All proposed revisions are posted on the ACGME-I website here.

First, the Committee is soliciting input on major revisions to the International Advanced Specialty Program Requirements in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pathology.

Next, we are inviting comments on new International Advanced Specialty Requirements for fellowship programs in Internal Medicine-Critical Care Medicine.

Finally, the Review Committee-International is requesting comment on the following:

- ranges for program length in all ACGME-I-accredited residency and fellowship programs
- additions to the International Advanced Specialty Program Requirements in Internal Medicine and General Surgery to allow for preliminary year residents; and,
- revisions to the International Advanced Specialty Program Requirements in the following specialties to allow an option for an integrated first year (PGY-1). These specialties are:
  - Anesthesiology
  - Dermatology
  - Ophthalmology
  - Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
  - Diagnostic Radiology
  - Radiation Oncology
Preventive Medicine

The proposed revisions to International Advanced Specialty Requirements are provided as a tracked document with additions underlined and deletions crossed out. The proposed Requirements, a summary of and rationale for the proposed changes, and an electronic form that can be used to provide comments are available here.

The Review Committee-International encourages comments from designated institutional officials (DIOs), program directors, faculty members, and residents. The Review Committee also encourages comments from governmental officials and professional groups or societies. We are particularly interested in your comments pertaining to issues that might be unique to your country. Our desire is to allow flexibility to accommodate unique differences, while still maintaining basic educational integrity with regard to the requirements.

Please note that the comment period will end November 6, 2015.

At its December 2015 meeting the Review Committee-International will carefully consider all comments received by the deadline to determine the final International Advanced Specialty Requirements and the effective date. Following the meeting, the revised Requirements will be posted on the ACGME-I website.

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ACGME-I Web Resources for Programs and Sponsoring Institutions

The ACGME-I website has a wealth of resources for DIOs, program directors, and faculty members in ACGME-I-accredited programs. Many of these resources, such as the new Clinical Competency Committees: A Guidebook for Programs, are located on the FAQ page.

The ACGME-I Clinical Competency Committee Guidebook was modified from the U.S. version to reflect the requirements and processes unique to ACGME-I. The guidebook outlines the purpose of the Clinical Competency Committee (CCC) and provides information on structure and membership, preparing and running a CCC meeting, post-meeting documentation and follow-up, and legal considerations. The guidebook contains self-quizzes and an excellent annotated bibliography for further reading and faculty development.
The Clinical Competency Committee and the Total Assessment System: A summary of some important points in the ACGME-I Clinical Competency Committee Guidebook

The Clinical Competency Committee (CCC) is part of a total system of assessment of residents and fellows that relies on several key elements, including:

- faculty members as direct observers of resident and fellow performance;
- residents and fellows as active participants in completing guided self-assessment;
- the program director as the ultimate arbiter of whether a resident or fellow will enter unsupervised practice;
- the Milestones as the guiding framework and blueprint; and,
- the CCC as the group responsible for synthesizing qualitative and quantitative assessment data.

The CCC functions best when members share a mental model of what resident/fellow performance looks like and when the assessment program includes multiple forms of assessment and uses multiple evaluators. The individual 'pieces' of assessment data are then synthesized to form a global picture of resident/fellow performance. Programs should not simply use statistical means, such as numeric averages and standard deviations, or a single type of data to make CCC determinations. Informed human judgement is a critical component of the CCC process.

The assessment system relies on data that is also used in feedback loops to allow programs to engage in a cycle of continuous quality improvement. Aggregated data on resident performance should be one source of information in the annual review of the program. For example, aggregated performance data can be useful to examine the didactic and clinical curriculum, the effectiveness of participating sites, the usefulness of assessment forms, and the impact of faculty development activities. Subsequent analyses can then be used to determine the effectiveness of strategies that have been implemented.

Collectively, all of those involved in the assessment system, residents/fellows, faculty members, program directors, ACGME-I, and certification and credentialing entities are accountable to the public for honest assessment of resident/fellow performance and truthful verification of their readiness to progress to independent practice.

ACGME Annual Educational Conference to Feature Sessions Devoted to International Education
Please consider attending the ACGME Annual Educational Conference February 25-28, 2016 at the Gaylord National, National Harbor, Maryland. This event is a wonderful diverse menu of learning opportunities for all. Last year, attendance neared 6,000 people. Highlights of this event include:

* Keynote speakers addressing critical issues faced by those who educate young physicians, including Thomas J. Nasca, MD, MACP, CEO of ACGME, ACGME-I.

* Three sessions devoted to areas particular to international education. Each will include speakers involved with international accreditation as well as staff from ACGME International. These are designed to be highly interactive, with time to learn from each other. Topics are:
  - International Accreditation: Rewards and Challenges
  - An update from the Review Committee-International
  - It’s a Small World: International Themes in GME

* Reception for international attendees. This is a perfect opportunity to mingle with your colleagues from across the world.

* Approximately 125 sessions for general audiences on specific issues, such as evaluations, residents who are challenged, creating programs for improving quality, and more.

* An exciting venue - National Harbor, Maryland - offers adjacency to Washington, DC and, hence, an opportunity to explore national landmarks, wonderful museums, and diverse entertainment.

Registration will open in early November. Further communication from ACGME International will follow.

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.