



## Greetings!

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

### Program Director Responsibilities during a Pandemic

What's a program director to do: emergency rooms filled with COVID patients; some residents and faculty members are at home fighting illness; staffing shortages everywhere; and no elective surgeries. And on top of all of this, an accreditation site visit in the fall!

These realities are part of the consequences of the current pandemic. It is important to understand that those who make accreditation decisions—the members of the Review Committees-International—are also struggling with these very issues. Program directors need to understand that what drives their decisions must first and foremost center on the patient and those most in need. It is completely understandable to deploy residents to perform clinical care of a more urgent nature; to adjust didactic curricula so that urgent patient care is prioritized; to adjust rotations such that patient care can continue.



There are, however, specific principles that must underpin any adjustments to the learning environment; each of these is essential so that patient care can be delivered safely:

1. The principle of supervision: Residents must continue to receive supervision. When residents are deployed to do other clinical tasks, these assignments must match the clinical skills of the individual residents. They cannot be placed in a position of doing something beyond their experience and competence. There must be supervision appropriate to the task. This principle protects both the patient and the resident.
2. The principle of protection: Much has been written about the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE). It is essential that residents have PPE appropriate for the tasks they perform. Not only must there be the equipment; there **must** be the training that enables proper use of this equipment.
3. The principle of well-being: Abundant evidence shows that a fatigued resident cannot provide the same degree of safe care to patients, and that fatigue can result in excessive needle sticks, car accidents, and other injuries to the resident and others. Work and education hours (duty hours) must be honored during the pandemic; this is a must. Once again, this principle serves not only the patient, but also the resident.

It is hoped that by articulating these specific requirements that must remain in place, that patient safety and resident well-being will benefit. This hope is in fact backed up by evidence that supervision, protective gear, and avoidance of chronic fatigue all are key to

### Questions of the Quarter:

Each quarter, this section of the ACGME-I Newsletter answers questions applicable to all ACGME-I-accredited programs. This quarter's focus provides guidance to program directors regarding fellows and residents in their final year and the impact of COVID-19.

**Question 1: Given the impact that the pandemic has had on the clinical learning environment and the planned curriculum, what options do programs have to allow fellows and residents in their final year to graduate from an ACGME-I-accredited program?**

*ACGME-I recognizes that in many cases, residents and fellows slated to graduate in 2020 will not complete all planned experiences. The decision to graduate a resident or fellow is the responsibility of the program director, with input from the Clinical Competency Committee (CCC), and is based on the individual's ability to perform the medical, diagnostic, and/or surgical procedures considered essential for the specialty or subspecialty.*

*The determination of whether a resident or fellow can graduate on schedule can be made even when the curriculum as originally planned is not completed. If the program director is confident that the resident or fellow has achieved the desired level of competence, then regardless of the required rotations completed, the learner can graduate. If the program director feels that additional education and training are needed to develop competence or to provide clinical experiences needed for autonomous practice in the specialty or subspecialty, an extension of the educational program and development of an individualized learning plan will be necessary. Clear communication among the CCC, program director, and residents or fellows is key to making such determinations.*

**Question 2: Since elective surgeries have been significantly impacted during the pandemic, will the Review Committee-International suspend case minimums for 2020 graduates?**

*The Review Committee-International will not suspend or waive minimum case requirements in response to the pandemic. The Review Committee-International is made up of peer physician educators who understand the effect the pandemic is having on education*

## ACGME-I Webinar on the Revised Foundational Requirements Will be Held 16 June

ACGME-I recognizes that designated institutional officials (DIOs), program directors, and coordinators will likely have questions on the new Foundational Requirements and on the revised Annual Update. To help answer these questions, a live webinar is planned for 16 June 2020. ACGME-I President and CEO Dr. Susan Day, Dr. Salahddin Gehani, senior consultant at Hamad Medical Corporation and Vice Chair of the Surgical/Hospital-Based Review Committee-International, and ACGME-I Executive Director Dr. Lorraine Lewis will discuss the revisions to the Foundational Requirements, familiarize participants with changes to the ADS Annual Update, and provide links to additional resources. Participants in the live webinar will have the opportunity to ask questions.

The one-hour live webinar will be held 16 June at 6:00 a.m. in Guatemala City; 8:00 a.m. in Port-au-Prince; 3:00 p.m. in Doha, Beirut, and Riyadh; 4:00 p.m. in Abu Dhabi and Muscat; and 8:00 p.m. in Shanghai and Singapore. For those unable to attend the live webinar, the session will be recorded and available on ACGME-I's online distance education portal, EXPLORE, available [here](#).

The live webinar is free to all faculty and staff members in ACGME-I-accredited Sponsoring Institutions and programs, but registration is required. Registration and information on technical requirements needed to access the webinar are available at: <https://onlinexperiences.com/scripts/Server.nxp?LASCmd=AI:4:F:QS110100&ShowUUID=B8836912-6A16-4F94-ABEC-E1ECB9F8CE3B>

We look forward to 'seeing you' at the session!

The revised Foundational Requirements are available on the ACGME-I website. The Residency Requirements are available [here](#), and the Fellowship Requirements are available [here](#). These requirements are effective 1 July 2020.

The revised requirements were reviewed in the February 2020 ACGME-I newsletter, available [here](#). To summarize, there are new features, such as Background and Intent statements, and new sections, such as on well-being, supervision and accountability, and professionalism. The information programs will be asked to provide in the Annual Update in ADS for 2020 will be revised to reflect the revised Foundational Requirements. Programs' Overview page in ADS will indicate the due date for each program's Annual Update.

programs. In light of that impact, the Review Committee-International will judiciously consider the Case Logs of graduates who were on duty during the pandemic, particularly those who were in the last year of a program. Programs are encouraged to include information on the impact of the pandemic on case volumes in the Major Changes section of the Accreditation Data System (ADS). Questions will also be added to the Annual Update in ADS for this year to help programs provide and explain context.

The Review Committee-International's review of case completion data for program graduates provides valuable information on how clinical experience is monitored and how the program ensures comparable clinical experiences for all residents/fellows. The ACGME-I case minima are not designed to be a surrogate for the procedural competence of an individual graduate. It is the responsibility of the program director, in consultation with the CCC, to determine whether an individual resident or fellow is competent in a procedure and to determine overall readiness for graduation.



## Calls for Nominations Now Open for 2021 ACGME-I Awards and for Membership on the Review Committee-International



2020 Award Winners Dr. Al Abri and Ms. Kiernan at the Annual Educational Conference. Dr. Ooi, recipient of the Physician Leader award, was honored in absentia as she remained in Singapore in response to the COVID-19 outbreak

*The Deadline for Nominations for 2021 ACGME-I Awards Is 1 June.*

We invite you to take part in an important growing tradition of honoring those who deserve special recognition for their role in medical education. Each place has these special heroes! Take a moment to reflect on who has been an extraordinary role model; on who has made education

Each place has these special heroes: Take a moment to reflect on who has been an extraordinary role model, on who has made education better; on who has provided a professional "spark" in their residents and fellows; on who has served quietly and effectively to improve the quality of the physicians who serve their patients.

Awards are given in three categories:

- **Physician Leader:** Often this is one who pioneers significant steps in an institution; who leads conversion to ACGME-I accreditation; who centers scholarly activity on assessing educational outcomes; who serves as inspiration to the community of medical educators; who connects others in a region; who advocates for essential educational resources.
- **Physician Educator:** In one simple word, this individual is a Mentor - and an exemplary one. This is the person residents turn to for advice, whether it be best treatments, career directions, or "tough love." This is the person who shows what professionalism is not only in talking but in caring. This is the kind of person you would wish to have care for you when you need it.
- **Staff:** Truly the unsung heroes, this is the "do-er" to whom both faculty members and residents and fellows turn. This is often the problem solver who demonstrates extraordinary people skills. This individual is reliable, timely, accurate, and responsible in carrying out duties. This person works effectively within a system, and treats all with respect. Often, this is the one who brings a smile to peoples' faces even in the most troubling times.

Please consider nominating your colleagues. Additional information and nominations forms are available [here](#). Past winners have truly cherished these awards, and with the greatest of humility and gratitude to those in their environment who took the time to recognize them.

*The Deadline for nominations for New Members of the Review Committee-International Is 15 June.*

ACGME-I is accepting nominations for two upcoming vacancies on the Review Committee-International. The deadline for nominations is 15 June and self-nominations are accepted. Information on the Review Committees-International is available [here](#).

The Review Committee-International meets twice a year in January and July, with additional subcommittee meetings scheduled as needed. Meetings are held in Chicago, Illinois, USA or at locations across the world, or are held using distance technology. Members will be selected from faculty members of ACGME-I-accredited programs for a three-year term from 1 July 2021 through 30 June 2024 with the option for one additional three-year term.

ACGME-I seeks nominations from specific countries or jurisdictions and medical specialties to achieve an appropriate balance that is representative of ACGME-I-accredited programs. To fill the two upcoming vacancies, nominations from accredited programs in the following specialties and countries will be considered:

- Abu Dhabi - Anesthesiology, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Pediatrics.
- Qatar - Anesthesiology, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Otolaryngology, Pediatrics
- Saudi Arabia - Ophthalmology

If you are interested, email ACGME-I at [acgme-i@acgme-i.org](mailto:acgme-i@acgme-i.org) for more information and an application form. Faculty members representing the countries and specialties listed above who were nominated previously may request to be re-nominated by contacting ACGME-I Executive Director Lorraine Lewis: [llewis@acgme-i.org](mailto:llewis@acgme-i.org).



### Did you know?

- Nominations deadline for the 2021 ACGME International Awards is 1 June 2020.
- Nominations deadline for the Review Committee-International membership is 15 June 2020.
- Deadline for complement increases for consideration at the July 2020 Review Committee-International meeting is 5 June 2020.
- The revised Foundational Requirements are effective 1 July 2020.
- The revised Advanced Specialty Requirements in Family Medicine and Radiology are effective 1 July 2020.

