



Greetings!

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

An Open Letter to the ACGME-I Community

We are all part of a wonderful community. Whether the medical education is occurring in Abu Dhabi or Singapore, involving orthopaedists or critical care specialists, or training newly graduated medical students or subspecialists ready for practice, our goals are shared. Thank you so much for your good work and dedication.

We are also part of an increasingly mobile world community. News travels at lightning speed; distance learning's biggest hurdle is finding time zones that can line up; germs know no boundaries.

The recent coronavirus developments have brought into focus the powerful forces of growing world populations, mobile societies, and our profound interconnectedness. It ties together the need for global health standards and for the essential role that quality physicians play in providing prompt, effective responses. In ACGME-I's Chicago confines, it raises genuine concern for the many communities tied to us by the accreditation network. What are the unique elements that underpin ACGME-I's relevance and responsiveness to such an event?

Patient care remains our central focus. We understand that each of you works within systems that are either in the midst of providing excellent care or of preparing for expanded roles consequent to world events. This focus on patients is clearly defined in ACGME-I's mission, and in many of our requirements for both institutions and programs. "Care" encompasses rigors reflecting clinical care, as well as assurances of patient safety. In short, ACGME-I is aligned completely with your day-to-day responsibilities.

Well-being of both faculty members and residents and fellows is essential. In places where the threat of coronavirus is greatest, we are extremely impressed that your responsiveness above all honors the important elements of professionalism. Though we have not delved more completely into what residents and fellows are actually doing, we expect that their safety is paramount, and that the proper supervision is provided.



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Clinical experience opportunities abound. The lessons learned by residents and fellows during such an event will last a lifetime. The responsiveness of faculty members, the importance of teamwork, and the management of a particularly ambiguous situation with this new viral syndrome are just a few examples of what residents and fellows are witnessing. When you take time to share why you are approaching a certain issue, residents and fellows will learn these lessons. No book can offer similar value.

Prioritization becomes a necessary skill. Who receives care first? What is being done to prevent further spread? What meetings or trips warrant attendance and being pulled away from a bedside? How are family needs met? And, yes, when do "rules" get in the way-whether it relate to time on duty, adjustment of rotations, or entitlement to a deserved vacation?

At ACGME-I, we are doing our best to connect with places most impacted by this story. We are impressed with the responsiveness of the medical teams around the world. In certain circumstances, we have postponed scheduled site visits because we understand that the burden of heightened patient care responsibilities, with significant complexity, warrants alterations in our schedule. We are also cognizant, and very much appreciate your support, that ACGME-I values the safety of our travelers, whether volunteers or staff members. We use as sources of information recommendations from the US Department of State Travel Advisory, an international risk advisor, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. By far, however, we rely on our connections with you. The essential issue of local context-what your lives are about and how a crisis is affecting you-must be known. We are indebted to those who have provided these perspectives.

Finally, accreditation efforts must continue. As difficult as it is to be faced with a pandemic, and to prioritize visibly what is important to patients and to residents, the requirements are still in place. Many of these requirements bolster the appropriate steps that are being taken by governments and institutions which shoulder responsibilities for rapid, effective responses. ACGME-I's goal of helping you educate and train quality physicians remains one that is achieved by your continuing attention to these requirements. In the best of worlds, accreditation will ultimately lead to a mass production of quality physicians, prevention of pandemics, improvement of treatment, and flexibility in rising to new challenges of globalization.

Thank you.
Susan H. Day, MD

New Requirements Are Effective 1 July 2020

New Foundational Requirements that apply to all ACGME-I residency and fellowship programs are now posted on the ACGME-I website here: <https://www.acgme-i.org/Accreditation-Process/Requirements> and will be effective 1 July 2020. Changes in the Foundational Requirements will continue to allow ACGME-I-accredited programs flexibility to adapt to local medical practice, yet maintain quality graduate medical education. For example, one common citation for many programs was related to faculty qualifications. It was difficult for the Review Committee-

International to evaluate credentials from physicians who trained in many countries. To help remedy this problem, the Foundational Requirements were revised to recognize the responsibility of the Sponsoring Institution to review and evaluate a faculty member's credentials.

One change you will notice right away is that the requirements now include Background and Intent statements. These are included to provide context and a rationale for those requirements that frequently cause confusion. There is also a Background and Intent statement at the beginning of the Foundational Requirements. This statement is intended to summarize the philosophy behind the requirements. Throughout the document, all Background and Intent statements are italicized and labeled. It is important to note that Background and Intent statements are not requirements and programs cannot receive citations based on a Background and Intent statement alone.

Some notable changes to the Foundational Requirements are:

- Faculty members must either have ABMS certification or meet all criteria for appointment as a faculty member at the Sponsoring Institution [residency requirement II.B.4.a); fellowship requirement II.B.3.a)]. Revision of the Institutional Requirements, which will occur in 2020, will include the standards to be used to judge how each institution makes faculty appointments.
- Programs must have a coordinator. For residencies, the coordinator must be supported for at least 20 hours per week for administrative time. For fellowships, the support must be adequate based on the size and configuration of the program [Requirement II.C.2.].
- Faculty scholarly activity will be judged for the program as a whole. Programs must have faculty scholarship that was disseminated in at least three of the areas listed in the requirement each year [Requirement IV.D.2.].
- The time between all daily duty periods is changed from 10 hours to 8 hours

Questions of the Quarter:

Each quarter, this section of the ACGME-I Newsletter answers different questions applicable to all ACGME-I-accredited programs. This quarter's focus is on how to respond to a citation in ACGME-I's Accreditation Data System (ADS).

Question 1: My program has received a citation, and I must give a response in ADS. What is my response used for?

Programs are asked to respond annually to any citations listed in ADS. For programs on annual review in Singapore, the program's response and other applicable data is used by the Review Committee-International to make an annual judgement if the citation has been resolved, or if it should be extended for another year.

For programs on periodic review, the program's response provides the Field Representative (a.k.a. site visitor) and the Review Committee-International with information on how the program is addressing the citation. The Field Representative will verify on site the information in the program's response and include it in the Site Visit Report. The program's response, the Site Visit Report, and other applicable data are used by the Review Committee-International to determine if the citation should be resolved or extended. Even though a program on periodic review is not scheduled for a site visit, it is important to provide an update each year. It often takes more than one year to resolve a citation and you should make sure that your update reflects the program's current plan and its' success in resolving the citation to date.

For both annual and periodic reviews, responses to citations are used by the Review Committee-International to review a request for a change in resident complement and determine a program's accreditation status.

The time between all daily duty periods is changed from 10 hours to 8 hours and a 14-hour period is now required after 24 hours of in-house call [Requirement VI.I.4.].

Changes in the Foundational Requirements for residency and fellowship programs will necessitate a change in programs' Annual Update. Revisions are currently being completed in the Accreditation Data System (ADS) for the 2020 update. ACGME-I plans to host a webinar to provide more details on the changes in ADS. More information will follow.

In addition to the changes in the Foundational Requirements, revisions to the Requirements for Family Medicine, available here: <https://www.acgme-i.org/Specialties/Landing-Page/pfcatid/9>, are effective 1 July 2020.

Finally, new requirements for fellowships in the following subspecialties are available, effective immediately:

- Occupational medicine, a subspecialty of either family medicine or internal medicine, available at: <https://www.acgme-i.org/Specialties/Landing-Page/pfcatid/9> or <https://www.acgme-i.org/Specialties/Landing-Page/pfcatid/4>
- Pediatric endocrinology, a subspecialty of pediatrics, available at <https://www.acgme-i.org/Specialties/Landing-Page/pfcatid/20>
- Pediatric gastroenterology, a subspecialty of pediatrics, available at <https://www.acgme-i.org/Specialties/Landing-Page/pfcatid/20>
- Pediatric infectious disease, a subspecialty of pediatrics, available at <https://www.acgme-i.org/Specialties/Landing-Page/pfcatid/20>
- Pediatric nephrology, a subspecialty of pediatrics, available at <https://www.acgme-i.org/Specialties/Landing-Page/pfcatid/20>
- Pediatric radiology, a subspecialty of radiology, available at <https://www.acgme-i.org/Specialties/Landing-Page/pfcatid/7>

Question 2: What should be included in my response to a citation?

The overall goal in responding to a citation is to communicate to the Review Committee-International how your program meets the requirement noted in the citation. The exact information that should be included depends on the citation itself; however, there are general guidelines that apply to all responses.

First, the response should directly address the requirement. It is not helpful to simply state that the program now meets the requirement or intends to meet the requirement. The response should provide details on how the requirement is being met or on the improvement plan to correct the deficiency. Secondly, if responding to an extended citation, it is not helpful to simply repeat the previous response since this response did not result in resolution of the citation.

Finally, specific details are most useful. For example, provide an outline of the program's improvement plan, or include new data, such as new procedural numbers, new faculty hires, or new research grants, to show that the requirement is now being met. If you feel that the program is meeting the requirement in the citation, then it is likely that information provided was unclear or conflicting information was present in parts of the Annual Update or program application. If this is the case, then your response should provide clarification and note, as applicable, where the likely confusion occurred.

ACGME-I's online learning portal, Explore, has a 10-minute video that provides additional information on how best to respond to a citation. If you have not yet registered for an Explore account, you can do so at <https://dl.acgme.org/acgme-international>.

ACGME-I Award Winners

Congratulations to the following individuals who will be honored at the 2020 ACGME Annual Educational Conference in San Diego, on behalf of the Awards Committee of the ACGME Board of Directors:

Physician Leader Award

Dr. Shirley Ooi has the distinction of being the sole designated institutional official who has served since the beginning of ACGME International in 2009. She is regarded as an outstanding clinician, colleague, teacher, mentor, and leader, and has published papers chronicling National University Health System's conversion to ACGME-I accreditation. Her leadership role at NUHS in both education and in its emergency medicine department ironically has necessitated that the award be presented in absentia: the responsiveness of Singapore to the coronavirus epidemic includes leaders who value their professional role above that of being honored.



Physician Educator Award

Dr. Houd Al Abri was nominated by staff members at the Oman Medical Specialty Board for his pivotal educational role in the Department of Emergency Medicine. He has been instrumental in graduate medical education (GME) in Oman in development of a simulation training center. As such, his educational influence extends beyond the domain of GME into other disciplines, such as nursing. Dr. Al Abri is widely respected for his mentorship; though centered in emergency medicine, his important role with the simulation center allows sharing of his talents with many others.



Staff Award

Ms. Kellie Kiernan is the institutional coordinator at Sheikh Khalifa Medical Center. This role has followed previous ones at SKMC, which include a similar role for the Department of Pediatrics. In both positions, she has been instrumental in supporting





the transition to ACGME-I accreditation. This expertise is enhanced by previous service in both the United States and the United Kingdom. Faculty members, residents, and staff members look up to her leadership abilities and commitment to graduate medical education at SKMC.

Did you know?

- Hospital Universitaire de Mirebalais in Haiti is the newest ACGME-I-accredited Sponsoring Institution, and the first Sponsoring Institution in the western hemisphere. This achievement attests that attaining ACGME-I accreditation is more dependent on a passion for quality education and hard work than a country's economic status.
- Dr. Shirley Ooi, DIO at National University Health System in Singapore, is the newest member of the Surgical/Hospital-Based Review Committee-International. Dr. Ooi's specialty is emergency medicine.
- The 2020 ACGME-I Resident and Faculty Surveys will be available from 16 March through 19 April 2020.
- ACGME-I's Institutional Requirements will undergo a scheduled 10-year revision in 2020. To begin the process, the Review Committee-International is requesting feedback on how these requirements should change. Please consider providing your input by completing an electronic submission form before 6 April 2020. The comment form and current Institutional Requirements are available on the ACGME-I website here: <https://www.acgme-i.org/Newsroom/Review-and-Comment>.



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