



## Greetings!

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



## Announcing the 2018 International Award Recipients

It is only fitting that as international accreditation has grown, individuals be honored for their commitment and service to graduate medical education. The ACGME International recognizes the extraordinary responsibility that moving to a structured accreditation education creates - it takes energy, commitment, creativity, and effort to foster graduate medical education.

Special congratulations are in order to Dr. Abdulatif Alkhal (Physician Award) and to Ms. Jillian Andrada (Staff Award). These are the inaugural awards in these categories uniquely developed for ACGME-I. Please read why these individuals are so deserving of this award:



Dr. Alkhal serves as the designated institutional official at Hamad Medical Corporation, in Doha, Qatar. Having received education in both Qatar and the US in internal medicine, he then completed a fellowship in infectious disease. He was instrumental in bringing ACGME International accreditation to his country and remains active clinically as well. Dr. Alkhal also served as an inaugural international member of the Review Committee-International.



Ms. Jillian Andrada is the institutional coordinator at SingHealth Hospitals in Singapore, with oversight of 34 residency programs and over 1000 residents. She has grown into this role after first serving as a program coordinator in emergency medicine when ACGME International accreditation first started. Her development of a Quarterly Residency Dashboard has evolved into a leadership program for all program directors at SingHealth; these projects have been awarded on multiple occasions.

Dr. Alkhal and Ms. Andrada will be honored at the 2018 ACGME Annual Educational Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Congratulations for a very well-deserved honor!

### Nominations are Now Open for the 2019 International Awards

We encourage all in our international community to consider nominating their colleagues for the next awardee selection. Up to two awards will be given- one for a physician and one for a staff person. Award information, including criteria, nomination forms, and directions to complete the nomination process, are available on the international website, [here](#). The deadline for nominations is 1 June 2018.

Take a careful look at why these awards are important. The ACGME-I is so proud of the work you are doing. We wish to encourage others to excel in the accreditation effort, and

## Question of the Quarter

Each quarter, this section of the ACGME-I newsletter answers a different question applicable to all ACGME-I-accredited programs. This quarter's focus is on the Program Letter of Agreement (PLA). Two questions related to PLAs follow.

### *Question 1: How do I decide if I need a PLA for a rotation?*

PLAs must be completed for any resident assignment that is a required rotation. If residents will be assigned to multiple sites to complete a required experience, each site must have a PLA in place that is specific to that site. For example, if half the program's residents are assigned to Site A and half are assigned to Site B to complete a required rotation, both A and B must have a PLA that is specific to that site.

PLAs are not required for internal rotations to other services or departments. For example, in pediatrics, the Advanced Specialty Requirements mandate that all residents have rotations in the Emergency Department. If all pediatric residents complete this required experience in the Emergency Room at the Sponsoring Institution, a PLA is not needed. Additionally, if residents are assigned to a specialty hospital (such as a cancer hospital, dialysis center, or ambulatory surgical center) governed by the Sponsoring Institution, a PLA is not needed.

### *Question 2: How specific should a PLA be?*

The PLA must be specific when naming faculty members, listing faculty member responsibilities, indicating the duration of the assignment, outlining the content and objectives of the experience, and stating the policies and procedures that govern the assignment. Many Sponsoring Institutions will use templates to help guide the program director when writing PLAs. This can be very useful, but be careful that all of the required items are in place and specific

to the program/site. It is important to carefully proofread sections that were 'cut and pasted' from another document to make sure these parts fully apply to the specialty, and specific assignment at that site.

Requirements for PLAs are found in the ACGME-I Foundational Requirements, Section I.B. Residency and fellowship requirements are available [here](#).

know that both the physician educators and the staff service deserve to be honored.

These awards carry the gravitas of the ACGME Board's Awards Committee. The Review Committee-International plays a role as well, with the final decision made by the ACGME Board.

## Review Committee-International News



The Review Committee-International meeting was held 7-9 December in Singapore. The Committee reviewed submitted material and site visit reports for nine program applications and from eight programs and Sponsoring Institutions that are currently accredited. The Committee also reviewed progress reports and requests for complement increases.

For the first time, residency programs in dermatology, neurological surgery, and radiation oncology received accreditation. The ACGME-I now accredits 149 residency and fellowship programs, marking a 10 percent increase in the number of accredited programs in 2017.

At its business meeting, Review Committee-International members carefully considered comments received during public comment and used them to inform revision and approval of new Advanced Specialty Requirements for Clinical Informatics and to the requirements for Family Medicine Practice (FMP) sites in the Advanced Specialty Requirements for Family Medicine. The clinical informatics requirements are available [here](#), and the revised requirements for family medicine are available [here](#).

The Committee also discussed possible revisions to the Advanced Specialty Requirements for Pathology related to the minimum number of autopsies required; scholarly activity requirements for fellowship programs; and the faculty qualifications currently outlined in the ACGME-I Foundational Requirements. Any proposed revisions to these requirements and additional new fellowship requirements will be posted for public comment in spring 2018. Designated institutional officials (DIOs), program directors, faculty members, and coordinators should watch their e-mail for notices from the ACGME-I when requirements are posted for a 60-day public comment period.

Finally, the Committee honored three members who have completed their terms on the Review Committee-International.

- **Dr. Margaret Blott** is currently Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and DIO at Corniche Hospital in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. She is the former program director for Corniche Hospital's obstetrics and gynecology residency program.
- **Dr. Sally Ho** is currently Assistant Director for Education and a Senior Consultant in the Family Medicine program at Singapore Health Services. She is the former program director for SingHealth's family medicine program.
- **Dr. Halah Ibrahim** is currently Executive Director of Health and Wellness at New York University, Abu Dhabi. She is also currently a member of the Editorial Board for the Journal of Graduate Medical Education. Dr. Ibrahim is the former DIO of Tawam Hospital in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates.

Each of these physicians was responsible for transitioning their program or institution to ACGME-I accreditation, and they were members of the first group of physicians to truly represent the international voice in the important peer-driven process. Their collective expertise and dedication to graduate medical education within their institution, program, and especially within their country is unparalleled. All will be missed.

## 2018 ACGME Annual Educational Conference

Please join ACGME-I staff members and approximately 3,500 of your colleagues in graduate medical education around the world for the 2018 ACGME Annual Educational Conference, *Engaging Each Other: Transformation through Collaboration*, 1-4 March at Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Florida, USA. Sessions include speakers and topics addressing physician well-being, the Milestones, the clinical learning environment,

and more, and focus on innovations and programs to improve the quality of residency and fellowship programs. Online registration is open through Friday, 2 February. More information is available [here](#).

As in the past, ACGME-I staff members will schedule individual meetings with attendees on Friday, 2 March. For more information and to sign up for a meeting, e-mail [acgme-i@acgme-i.org](mailto:acgme-i@acgme-i.org). Deadline for reserving a time is Thursday, 22 February.

Of particular interest to international attendees are sessions on Saturday, 3 March described below. ACGME-I staff members will also host an International Reception on the evening of Saturday 3 March, 17:30 to 19:00, in Sandlake.

### **Saturday, 3 March**

#### **- 8:00-9:30** SES059 International Review Committee Update

- Lorraine Lewis, EdD; Kenneth Simons, MD; Sophia Archuleta, MD

Update on 2017 activities of the Review Committee-International, including overview of common citations issued in 2017, review of changes in Program Requirements, and discussion of new ACGME-I initiatives. *Target Audience: DIOs, Program Directors, Coordinators, Faculty, International Attendees*

#### **- 13:30-15:00** SES079 For He/She's a Jolly Good Fellow: International Physicians and Training in US Accredited Programs

- Susan Day, MD; Lorraine Lewis, EdD; Pierre Bou Khalil, MD

Internationally-trained physicians who seek training in the US are faced with difficult questions, including: (1) What is different about the training I would receive in the US? Is ACGME International training identical? (2) What are the eligibility requirements? Does training in an ACGME International-accredited program further qualify me? Will I be able to practice in the US? (3) What are the cultural surprises in the US? Will I be treated like others? This session will address answers to those questions and more. *Target Audience: DIOs, Program Directors, Coordinators, GME Educators, Faculty, Administrators, International Attendees*

#### **- 15:30-17:00** SES104 ACGME International Milestones - or is it Kilometerstones? Purpose and Pragmatics

- Susan Day, MD; Laura Edgar, EdD, CAE; Salwa Abu Yaqoub, MD; Shirley Ooi, MD

Intended for representatives of programs and institutions with ACGME International accreditation, this panel discussion will address the purpose of the Milestones; how the new International Milestones were developed; and, how international educators can best use the new Milestones. The international perspectives of designated institutional officials, program directors, and coordinators will be considered. *Target Audience: DIOs, Program Directors, Coordinators, GME Educators, Faculty, Residents/Fellows, International Attendees*

## **Did You Know?**

Important dates for the first half of 2018:

- 2 February - Last day for online registration for the 2018 ACGME Annual Educational Conference; see the article in this quarter's newsletter for a description of this year's conference, and access more information [here](#).
- 19 March - ACGME-I Resident and Faculty Surveys windows open
- 22 April - Last day for residents and faculty members to complete ACGME-I surveys
- 31 May - Agenda closing date for the next Review Committee-International meeting; requests for complement increases must be submitted by this date for consideration at the 19-21 July meeting
- 1 June - Deadline for nominations for 2019 ACGME-I Awards; See the Awards page on the ACGME-I website for details; see the article in this quarter's newsletter about the ACGME International awards for more information

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