



Greetings!

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

Letter from the President and CEO

I am happy to introduce myself to our ACGME-I community in this newsletter. In September, I became ACGME-I's new President and Chief Executive Officer. I am excited to lead this vibrant, growing organization, which in a relatively short period of time, has established itself as a respected accreditor in international graduate medical education. I hope to advance ACGME-I's mission and values, nurture our existing relationships, develop new partnerships, and build our medical education community so that together we can help improve the quality of residency and fellowship education across the world.

I first would like to recognize Susan Day, MD, for her leadership and service to ACGME-I. Dr. Day is a true role model for any physician-educator-leader. Her combination of skills, commitment, and compassion were instrumental in the growth of ACGME-I over the past decade. I realize that most of you who have worked with her over the years will miss her dearly, as she embarks on a new stage of her accomplished career... this one focused on her love of music. I will strive to be as good a colleague to all of you as she has been. Dr. Day and I have worked very closely over the past months to ensure a smooth transition. I am sure that I can speak for all members of our community on wishing her the very best as she moves on to new adventures and experiences.

Although we remain in a travel-restricted mode due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am very much looking forward to meeting our many colleagues and partners across the world, both so I can learn from you, and so you can get to know me a bit. I have been engaged in medical education for my entire career, from program director of a cardiology fellowship to director of GME and designated institutional official at a large institution in the US. For over a decade, I also served on Review Committees for both the ACGME and ACGME-I, and gained a comprehensive understanding of ACGME operations, accreditation processes and challenges, and the unique aspects of accrediting programs across different countries. I am quite aware of both the rewards and challenges faced by medical educators and learners. When we meet, I hope that you will find me passionate about what we do, sensitive to your needs, open minded, pragmatic,

Questions of the Quarter: The Most Common Program Citation

Each quarter, this section of the ACGME-I Newsletter answers questions applicable to all ACGME-I-accredited programs. This quarter the questions address the most common citation given to programs, and how it can be avoided.

Question: What is the most common citation given to programs and why is it given?

Answer: During the 2020-2021 academic year, 30 percent of all citations were for program director responsibility to provide accurate and complete information to the Review Committee-International. This citation, which is related to Foundational Requirement II.A.2.j) for residencies and II.A.5.m) for fellowships, has remained the largest contributor to citations, accounting for 14 percent of all citations ever given to ACGME-I-accredited programs.

Most often, the citation is given because of one or more of the following:

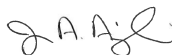
- Faculty scholarly activity listed is older than the five years requested.
- Information on the block diagram does not match information entered elsewhere, such as participating site information or questions on the Advanced Specialty Application.
- Information is missing, such as

and a trustworthy colleague.

As we get to know each other, I hope you will gain a better understanding of our collective vision for ACGME-I. I say “collective” because I see our vision as a product of partnership and engagement among all who are part of our ACGME-I community. We have and will continue to face many challenges, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, political unrest, natural disasters, economic stress, and social injustice across the world. But we must remain committed to our goals in the international medical community, and to make progress one step at a time, to improve graduate medical education and the health of those we serve in our communities. We are committed to ensuring that ACGME-I provides the leadership and resources to help our stakeholders make progress in their educational programs during these stressful times through growth, innovation, and collaboration.

Again, I look forward to meeting many of the leaders in medical education who form our ACGME-I network and community. I want to stress that my virtual “door” is always open to you; I want to get to know you, and you should be comfortable sending me an email, or setting up a meeting (for now, virtual) with me. I truly look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

Respectfully,



James A. Arrighi, MD

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Annual Update Changes

Annual Update season is here! The deadline for completion of the Annual Update and Case Log verification for all procedural specialties is 22 October. This year the information entered in the Annual Update is especially significant for all programs other than those with a status of Initial Accreditation. Information entered for the 2020-2021 academic year will be used by the Review Committee-International in its annual review of programs.

Effective 1 July 2021, DIOs must oversee submissions of the Annual Update in the Accreditation Data System (ADS) for each of their programs. A new tool in ADS allows DIOs and institutional coordinators to review and approve or return a program's Annual Update to the program director with suggested changes. Directions for accessing the review in ADS has been sent to all DIOs and institutional coordinators. Program directors are encouraged to submit their Annual Update with plenty of time for review and revision. If the Annual Update is returned or the DIO requests changes after approval, the program director must make the revisions and re-submit the Annual Update so the DIO can review and

information on faculty member certification or qualifications, participating sites, or the number of procedures or types of patients on the program's Advanced Specialty Application.

- The program's responses to citations have not been updated.

Question: What can my program do to avoid or correct this citation?

Answer: This citation can be easily avoided and corrected. First, make sure there is adequate time to complete the program's application and Annual Update. Second, have someone who knows ACGME-I accreditation, but who is outside of the program, look over the materials before you submit them. Another program director or coordinator who does not know your program can help spot errors or omissions you may not see. Third, develop a checklist of common errors, like the ones listed above to help guide completion of information. Fourth, cross-check information provided for different parts of the Annual Update or program application. For example, the block diagram, participating site information, and some questions on a program application will ask for information on length and types of rotations. Make sure the information entered is the same across these and is accurate. Finally, update the program's responses to citations at least annually.

ACGME-I's distance education platform, [Explore](#), has several short videos to help. Videos on entering faculty members' scholarly activity, completing a block diagram, and responding to a citation are all available with additional tips to complete required information accurately and thoroughly. As always, ACGME-I staff members are also available to answer questions.

approve it. DIO approval must be documented prior to 22 October.



Requirements for Internal Medicine and Two New Fellowships Are Posted for Comment

ACGME-I conducts regular reviews and revisions of requirements. This year the Advanced Specialty Requirements for Internal Medicine are undergoing a scheduled review. In addition, new fellowship requirements for geriatric psychiatry, a fellowship of psychiatry, and orthopaedic sports medicine, a fellowship of orthopaedic surgery, are currently posted for public comment. The proposed requirements are now on the [website](#).

The Review Committee-International is requesting comments that support the proposed requirements, suggest changes in wording, and provide information on the ability of a country or jurisdiction to successfully implement the proposed requirements. A summary outlining the major revisions to the internal medicine requirements and major elements of the proposed new fellowship requirements is also posted on the website, along with the requirements, to aid in the review.

Discussion and review of the requirements at a faculty meeting is an easy way to collect information from all faculty members. All comments are valuable and are an important part of ACGME-I's requirements development process. The Review Committee-International carefully considers all comments and uses the information to revise the proposed requirements before making a recommendation to the ACGME-I Board of Directors for final approval.

All comments must be received within **60 days or before 6 December 2021**. To submit comments, please use the electronic submission form, available [here](#), and send the completed form to acgme-i@acgme-i.org.

Calling All Innovators! Consider Submitting for Publication in the *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*

Has your program or institution successfully implemented a new idea that has improved graduate medical education (GME)? The Journal of Graduate Medical Education (JGME) seeks submissions of novel innovations in curricula, teaching, assessment, quality and safety, program evaluation, supervision, faculty development, or other topics. These GME interventions or assessments should have been implemented at least once and appear successful in preliminary evaluations. Review the **Call for Submissions** for more information and selection criteria.





Did you know?

At the July 2021 meeting of the Review Committee-International, two new Sponsoring Institutions received Initial Accreditation. ACGME-I welcomes:

- Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in Irbid, Jordan
- Unidad Nacional de Oncologia Pediatrica (UNOP) in Guatemala City, Guatemala

ACGME's Annual Educational Conference is virtual in 2022!



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