

Graduate Medical Education Report

In accordance with accreditation standards of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Medicine and the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System (UI Health) submits to the Board of Trustees a yearly report concerning the state of our Graduate Medical Education programs.

Introduction

Graduate Medical Education represents additional training for individual learners following graduation from medical school. Through residency and fellowship training programs, learners participate in advanced training that lead to skills, knowledge and professional attitude acquisitions that ultimately lead to competencies in specific areas of medicine. The University sponsors 120 programs across the Chicago campus and all affiliated institutions for learners. The total number of learners enrolled is 850. In addition to programs within the University System (including the Veterans Hospital), we have major affiliated programs at Advocate Christ Hospital, Advocate Illinois Masonic Hospital, Advocate Lutheran General, Mercy Hospital, McNeal Hospital, and Mount Sinai Hospital.

Fifty-four of the programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the national body that sets standards for graduate medical education; 65 are GMEC-approved fellowships through our local Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC); and one is a combined program for which there is recognition by the ACGME but without formal accreditation. The accreditation process includes an on-site visit every one to five years, with reports issued by the ACGME identifying areas of non-compliance when benchmarked against accreditation standards. Programs with significant citations may receive accreditation cycle lengths of less than the maximum of five years. As of July 1, 2013, there are seven specialty programs participating in the Next Accreditation System (NAS). All remaining programs will enter the NAS effective July 1, 2014.

Outcomes

Thirteen programs were reviewed by the ACGME during 2012-13. Our ACGME institutional accreditation site visit occurred in January 2012, and resulted in continued full accreditation with a two-year review cycle. The ACGME recently extended the date of the next institutional review from April 2014 to April 2016. This change was primarily due to significant progress on the part of UIC Graduate Medical Education in addressing the ACGME's concerns. All citations from the Institutional Review have been addressed and a progress report will be submitted to the ACGME by February 1, 2014.

Following its ACGME site visit in November 2012, the Surgery program was notified that the ACGME had proposed probationary status for the program. The Department and Institution prepared a rigorous and comprehensive response supported by documented outcomes data. We fully anticipate that the program will be restored to full accreditation on the basis of the response. The ACGME should render its decision by January 2014.

Program directors, Department Heads and the Graduate Medical Education Committee are working in conjunction with the GME administration/leadership, with support from the Dean's office, to achieve full compliance in all areas by all programs and the institution.

Focus for the Upcoming Year (2013-2014)

Areas of focus in the coming year include:

- Preparation for the February 1, 2014 ACGME institutional site visit response.
- Continued preparation for implementation of the ACGME Next Accreditation System (NAS). The NAS emphasizes monitoring trainee achievement of specified clinical training milestones in the curriculum. As previously reported, seven specialty programs have already transitioned to NAS, with all remaining programs to be transitioned on or before July 1, 2014.
- Preparation for implementation of the ACGME Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER). The ACGME will assess clinical training sites, administrative personnel, and infrastructure, with a focus on quality improvement, patient safety, transitions of care, supervision, duty hours, fatigue management and mitigation, and professionalism. A committee comprised of COM, GME and Hospital administrators, faculty, and trainees has been formed to address the implementation of CLER requirements. We anticipate an ACGME-CLER site visit sometime before June 30, 2014.
- A leadership team consisting of key administrative members from UIH and the COM (facilitated by Drs. Avijit Ghosh and Ron McNeil) recently determined that in order to ensure effective management of these programs, both the management responsibility and operational authority should be aligned under the College of Medicine. As a result, all sources of funds (revenues) and expenses directly associated with GME programming will be consolidated in a single budget to be developed annually. In addition to Federal DME and IME funds, sources of revenue will include affiliate hospital fees, grants and other incomes associated with GME programs.

Going forward, the GME Office will be responsible for managing wage and non-wage expenses associated with the GME programs. A standing committee comprising representatives from both UI Health and the COM will be established. The committee will serve as a joint management team and will oversee the development of annual

budgets including the appropriate sizing and allocation of resident positions and strategies for program enhancement. The committee shall provide ongoing evaluation of how current GME programs align with educational and clinical needs and priorities in order to identify opportunities that can improve that alignment.

- Identifying new and innovative opportunities for departments to enhance GME, through an incentive program with funds that have been committed by the COM. This incentive program is now in its second year of implementation. The College has also started a program to encourage residents' research and scholarly activities by rewarding publication of their work in peer-reviewed journals.

Graduate Medical Education programs are essential to the educational, clinical, and service missions of the College of Medicine, UI Health, and the University of Illinois. The UIC College of Medicine and UIH share strategic alignment in promoting and continually improving our GME programs. We are committed to the work of transforming our GME programs to serve as destination sites for future learners.