

## **OFFICE OF GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION**

### **Organizational Structure**

The Graduate Medical Education (GME) Office is under the direction of Carole W. Boudreaux, M.D., Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education and Designated Institutional Official at the University of South Alabama Hospitals, Mobile, Alabama. Dr. Boudreaux and staff are responsible for the oversight of ACGME accreditation status and the educational environment, as well as administrative issues for all University of South Alabama Hospitals residency and fellowship programs.

The GME Office implements policies of the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) at the University of South Alabama Hospitals. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) charges the GMEC with responsibility for monitoring and advising on all aspects of residency education including compliance with ACGME duty hour standards and creating a strong working and learning environment. The GMEC is composed of program directors, teaching faculty, designated representatives of the major teaching hospitals and residents selected by their peers. The Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education reports activities of the Graduate Medical Education Committee to the Dean, College of Medicine. Meetings of the GMEC are held monthly and include review and approval of requests by programs for changes in resident complement and changes in program directors among other procedural approvals required by the ACGME. The GMEC is responsible for reviewing current issues facing residency and fellowship training programs. The Committee also conducts Internal Reviews of residency and fellowship programs and sets institutional policy to ensure that the quality of education and the work environment for residents and fellows meets or exceeds the standards of the ACGME and USA Hospitals.

### **Overview**

The University of South Alabama Hospitals (USAH) sponsored 11 residency and 7 fellowship programs with 246 residents and fellows during the 2011-2012 academic year.

All residency and fellowship programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Accreditation Status and Next Site Visit</b>	<b>Number of Residents</b>
Family Medicine (3 year program)	Continued Accreditation 9/2014	18
FM: Sports Medicine (1 year program)	Continued Accreditation 1/1/2017	1
Internal Medicine (3 year program)	Continued Accreditation Approximate date of Self Study Visit under the ACGME's Next Accreditation System ("NAS") 5/1/2016	47
Cardiovascular (3 year program)	Continued Accreditation Approximate date of Self Study Visit under NAS 5/1/2016	6
Gastroenterology (3 year program)	Continued Accreditation Approximate date of Self Study Visit under NAS 5/1/2016	6
Infectious Disease (2 year program)	Accreditation Voluntarily Withdrawn	3
Pulmonary/CC (3 year program)	Continued Accreditation 1/1/2016	6
Med/Peds (4 year program)	Continued Accreditation Approximate date of Self Study Visit NAS 10/1/2022	9
Neurology (3 year program)	Awaiting Letter of Notification	7
Clinical Neurophysiology (1 year program)	2 year accreditation cycle 5/1/2013	0
OB/GYN (4 year program)	Continued Accreditation 5/2014	16
Orthopaedic Surgery (5 year program)	Continued Accreditation 1/2013	15
ORS: Sports Medicine (1 year program)	Voluntary Withdrawal of Accreditation	1
Pathology (4 year program)	Continued Accreditation April 2013	13
Pediatrics (3 year program)	Continued Accreditation Approximate date of Self Study Visit under NAS 10/1/2022	34
Psychiatry (4 year program)	Continued Accreditation (10/1/2016)	16
Radiology (4 year program)	Continued Accreditation (4/1/2016)	20
Surgery (5 year program)	Continued Accreditation (8/23/2012)	26

## **Program Closures**

The Infectious Disease fellowship program has requested voluntary withdrawal of accreditation effective July 1, 2013, so that the current fellow in the program can complete his training. This will allow the program to regroup in addressing a number of citations from their last site visit. In reviewing the citations received by the ID program, themes were identified affecting multiple programs in the institution including institutional support, specifically, the annual program budgetary process; academic productivity at the resident and faculty level; and the authority of the GME Office/ DIO and GMCEC to oversee the programs' substantial compliance with ACGME requirements. These issues are being addressed at an institutional level via an institutional plan of action task force.

The Orthopedic Surgery/Sports Medicine program has also requested voluntary withdrawal of accreditation due to loss of resources for funding its fellowship position.

**ACGME Accreditation Site Visits**

The following programs were site visited or received RC (Review Committee) accreditation during 2011-2012:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Site Visit Date</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Accreditation Status</b>	<b>Accreditation Cycle (Years)</b>
Radiology	October 11, 2011	April 5, 2012	Continued Accreditation	4 years
Infectious Diseases	October 12, 2011		Voluntary Withdrawal of Accreditation	
Family Medicine/Sports Medicine	October 13, 2011	January 23, 2012	Continued Accreditation	5 years
Med/Peds	April 12, 2011	April 15, 2012	Continued Accreditation Approximate date of self study visit under NAS 10/1/22	
Gastroenterology	April 14, 2011	September 23, 2011	Continued Accreditation Approximate date of self study under NAS 5/1/2016	
Pediatrics	November 30, 2011	April 15, 2012	Continued Accreditation Approximate date of Self Study Visit under NAS (10/1/22)	
Neurology	December 1, 2011	May 17, 2012	Continued Accreditation	1 year
Surgery	August 23, 2012	Currently awaiting RC Letter of Notification		

The USAH institutional average cycle length for the above ACGME-accredited programs is 4.8 years

The institution also underwent an ACGME institutional site visit June 19, 2012. The Institutional Review Committee will meet during October, 2012 to review the findings and issue their report.

**New Program Submissions for Accreditation (pending)**

Surgical Critical Care

**GMEC Internal Reviews**

Three GMEC Internal Reviews were conducted for the following ACGME-accredited programs:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Internal Review Date</b>
Orthopedic Surgery	September 22, 2011
Clinical Neurophysiology	May 9, 2012
Obstetrics and Gynecology	May 11, 2012

**GMEC Oversight in ACGME Letters of Notification (LON), ACGME Resident Surveys and Internal Reviews**

The GMEC reviewed the following Plans of Action:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Plan of Action</b>	<b>Oversight Date</b>
Surgery	Internal Review	June 28, 2011
Psychiatry	ACGME Resident Survey	June 28, 2011
Internal Medicine	ACGME Resident Survey	August 23, 2011
Clinical Neurophysiology	LON	September 27, 2011
Pathology	ACGME Resident Survey	October 25, 2011
Orthopedic Surgery	Internal Review	October 25, 2011
Family Medicine	LON	February 28, 2012
Orthopedic Surgery/Sports Medicine	Internal Review	February 28, 2012
Ob-Gyn	ACGME Resident Survey	April 24, 2012
Neurology	ACGME request for follow-up report to 2010-2011 Resident Survey	April 24, 2012
Radiology	ACGME Resident Survey	May 22, 2012

## **Summary of Activities and Progress**

### **Resident Participation in Patient Safety and Quality of Care Education**

Incoming residents and fellows are introduced to the various USA Hospitals quality and patient safety programs upon matriculation into the institution as part of new resident/fellow hospital orientation. The institution provides GME Today online instructional modules for all new incoming residents and fellows in the ACGME six core competency domains, some of which specifically address patient safety. All residents and fellows in the institution will be required to complete the GME Today instructional module on cultural competency for the 2012-2013 academic year, and new incoming residents and fellows will be required to complete the GME Today educational module on achieving effective transitions of care. A subcommittee of the GMEC was appointed to develop an institutional QI program during the 2011-2012 academic year. Projects are now ongoing with presentation on a rotating basis at the monthly chief resident meetings as oversight. USA Online instructional modules have been developed to accompany simulation lab experiences for standardized instruction in areas that will improve patient safety such as ultrasound-guided central line insertion. Residents are appointed to various hospital committees that work to improve patient care and patient safety. "Dropbox" has been adopted for use by residents, fellows and faculty within the institution. Dropbox is an electronic application that allows documents to be accessed anywhere. Any file saved to the Dropbox will be automatically saved to smart phones, electronic tablets, computers and the Dropbox website. Resources housed in the USA GME Dropbox account include patient safety resources such as "The Top 10 List for a Safe and Effective Sign-out" (Kemp et al: Arch Surg. 2008; 143(10): 1008-1010); "Resident Sign-Out; A Precarious Exchange of Critical Information in a Fast-Paced World (from Borowitz, et al; Advances in Patient Safety: New Directions and Alternative Approaches) as well as quick references for core measures. While the above initiatives outline a number of ways residents are involved in and exposed to the concept of patient safety in the institution, there is not an overarching patient safety educational plan in place. Dr. Joyce Guest, GME Instructional Design Specialist, has been tasked with serving as a liaison between the hospitals and the GMEC to coordinate the development of such an initiative in the coming academic year. This will be especially important as the institution transitions to the "Clinical Learning Environment Review" (CLER) program under the ACMGE's Next Accreditation System. Programs were required to educate their residents and faculty in recognizing the signs of sleep deprivation and fatigue and to employ mechanisms to mitigate the negative effects of fatigue during the 2011-2012 academic year.

**Additional initiatives undertaken by the GMEC during the 2011-2012 academic year include:**

The newly reconfigured USA GME website that was updated to create a more user friendly resource for addressing all aspects of GME. Separate sections for residents, program directors, program coordinators, and resident applicants were developed. Numerous links to a variety of useful resources were put into place.

USA Online Educational Resources have been developed for programs' use in the instruction of "Critical Assessment of the Literature and How to Write A Scientific Paper," "Evidence-based Medicine," "Delivering Bad News," "Ultrasound-guided Central Line Insertion," and "Quality Improvement" as well as program specific resources in use by some individual programs.

A GME Faculty Development Sakai module housing the Duke University "Life Curriculum" was made available to the programs via USA Online.

New instructional resources utilizing the simulation lab were developed for use by all programs in the areas of "Delivering Bad News" and "Ultrasound-Guided Central Line Insertion."

Tegrity, the University's Lecture Capture System, was made available for use by the individual programs, and grand rounds and other departmental activities are now being recorded for access in Tegrity.

The USA Housestaff Association has been revitalized. A membership drive followed by an educational program on Debt Reduction was sponsored by the Association in May, 2012. Quarterly educational programs to support residents' personal and professional development sponsored by HCA will be scheduled for the upcoming academic year. The DIO meets quarterly with the Board of Directors of the USA Housestaff Association for feedback about the hospitals' learning and working environment. Non-voting representatives from the Housestaff Association are included in GMEC meetings.

Dr. Franklin Trimm has volunteered to head up this next Accreditation System Task Force to facilitate transitioning the initial programs in our institution that will come up in the new ACGME accreditation program effective July, 2013.

### **Research**

Joyce Guest, Ph.D., GME Instructional Design Specialist, was awarded a \$3,000.00 grant from the Office of the Vice President for Health Sciences at the University of South Alabama to Enhance Inter-professional Education Across the Health Sciences.