First CLER Site Visit

On May 20-22, 2014, UTHealth, as the sponsoring institution, and Memorial Hermann Hospital-TMC, as the participating site, had our first Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER) site visit. During the CLER visit, the four members of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) site visit team met with around 200 individuals, including hospital and GME leadership, hospital safety and quality leaders, program directors, faculty, and residents. They also made “rounds” in the hospital during which they spoke with nursing staff and additional residents, and observed patient hand-offs and other activities. The site visit went well; but, of course, there are always opportunities for improvement. Areas that we will be working to improve include:

- Resident and faculty reporting of patient safety errors, near misses and good catches
- Resident involvement in patient safety event investigations, such as root cause analysis
- Resident participation in quality improvement education and projects
- Standardization and monitoring of transitions in care, such as hand-offs
- Reduction in cutting and pasting in the electronic health record

CLER is part of the ACGME’s Next Accreditation System (NAS) which also includes annual program evaluations, reporting of resident Milestones, and less frequent program accreditation site visits.

-Margaret Uthman, MD
Associate Dean for GME

New Arrivals

Please welcome our newest Program Directors and Coordinators. We have had several “new arrivals” since January 2014.

Program Directors

- Amrou Sarraj, MD
  Vascular Neurology
- James McCarthy, MD
  Emergency Medical Services
- John Riggs, MD
  Obstetrics and Gynecology (LBJ)
- Ruckshanda Majid, MD
  Sleep Medicine
- Shobha Rao, MD
  Geriatric Medicine / Hospice & Palliative Medicine
- Thy Nguyen, MD
  Clinical Neurophysiology

Program Coordinators

- Allison Livingston
  Orthopaedic Surgery
- Stephanie Walker
  Anesthesiology
- Ardonia Toussant
  Clinical Magnetoencephalography & Neurosurgical Epilepsy
- Iashia Logan – ECMO
- Jessica Greene
  Endocrinology
- Linda Matthews
  Pediatric Cardiology
- Martha DeLaney
  Pediatric Critical Care
- Nelly Pescina
  Neuroradiology

- Norma Leal
  Pediatric Pulmonology
- Rebecca Meredith
  Pulmonary Critical Care & Sleep Medicine

2014-2015 GMEC Meeting Dates

- September 24, 2014
- October 22, 2014
- November 19, 2014
- December 10, 2014
- January 28, 2015
- February 25, 2015
- March 25, 2015
- April 22, 2015
- May 27, 2015
- June 24, 2015
- July 22, 2015
- August 26, 2015
From: Richard S.P. Huang, M.D.  
Housestaff President  

Housestaff Association  
I would like to welcome all the new and returning residents and fellows to The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. As we start the new academic year, I wanted to let you know how to get involved in the Housestaff Association.

The easiest way to get involved is to join us at noon on the second Wednesday of every month for our Housestaff Association meeting. All Housestaff members and Program Directors are invited to this monthly meeting. During this one hour meeting, we invite speakers to talk about issues such as blood utilization, resident well-being, obtaining your Texas medical license, credentialing at a hospital, and contract negotiations. A buffet style lunch is served at each of these meetings.

Housestaff Senate  
For further involvement, consider joining the Housestaff Senate. The Senators meet 3-4 times a year and serve as a liaison between their residency program and the Housestaff Executive Council. Here, the Senators can bring up concerns of the Housestaff and also help disseminate information to their colleagues. The Senators also serve on various committees in Memorial Hermann Hospital, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital. Some committees include the Ethics Committee, Transfusion Committee, Quality and Education Subcommittee, and HCHD Medical Executive Board Committee.

Contact your program director if you are interested in becoming a Housestaff Senator.

Housestaff Executive Council  
Lastly, I invite anyone wanting to help serve their fellow Housestaff members to run for a position on the Housestaff Executive Council in Spring 2015. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at ms.housestaff@uth.tmc.edu

ERAS 2015 Updates from GME  
ERAS has initiated their new web-based Program Directors Workstation (PDWS). This was implemented for fellowships in July 2014 and more recently for residency programs in August 2014.

ERAS now requires the GME Office to participate in the process by managing users and arranging for the mailing of the “invitation” from the AAMC to participate in ERAS. We appreciate everyone’s patience in learning this new process.

The web-based PDWS provides a reliable yet dynamic way to receive and evaluate applications and manage the recruitment process using enhanced scheduling, messaging, and ranking functionalities. It also eliminates the need to download and install software.

A few things to keep in mind:  
+ According to the ERAS website, only Firefox, IE and Safari browsers are supported for the ERAS Web-based PDWS.  
+ If you receive an email from AAMC_Registration, please act on it as soon as possible. The link in the email is only good for 2 weeks.

Once you receive the email, follow the instructions in it. If you already have an AAMC account, please click on the access code link and sign in using your existing credentials. Please keep in mind that if you are resetting your password after clicking on the access code link, you must complete the process of setting a new password, and then return to the access code link again and then proceed to sign in.

-David E. Kusnerik-  
Director, GME

Upcoming Housestaff Events  
A calendar of upcoming activities is continually updated and can be found at:  
https://med.uth.edu/oep/gme/ut-house-staff-association/upcoming-meetings-events/
PC Corner

A New Academic Year...
The Association of Residency Coordinators (ARC) had a great 2013-2014 academic year under the guidance of now past ARC President Brooke Moore and Vice President Phyllis Martin. Brooke took an active interest in developing the ARC guidelines and mission statement. She also put together an exceptional set of lecture series promoting coordinator professional development, training and wellness. On behalf of the ARC, I would like to thank Brooke and Phyllis for all of their hard work and a job well done.

Professional Development
The ARC has developed a Professional Development Committee (PDC) has been working diligently on increasing the recognition and the ever-evolving role of the “coordinator.” It is the goal of the PDC to educate those unfamiliar with the inner-workings of residency programs on the many duties and day-to-day managerial responsibilities of the position.

-Kandice McLeod, ARC President
Department of Emergency Medicine

Education Spotlight

“On Demand” One-hour Workshops
Teaching is a crucial part of the residency training experience at UTHealth Medical School. To support you in this area of training, the Office of Educational Programs offers a variety of one-hour workshops on teaching effectiveness and principles of feedback. Sessions can easily be scheduled within a Noon Conference or other didactic sessions. Other resident workshop topics include test-taking and knowledge acquisition strategies and effective presentation skills.

2nd Friday Workshops
The Office of Educational Programs is also offering monthly educator development sessions to faculty, fellows, and residents. They occur on the second Friday of each month, from 12-1 PM.

Upcoming ARC Meetings
The Association of Residency Coordinators (ARC) meets monthly, typically on the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 AM. The December meeting will be held earlier in the month due to the holidays.

All new and experienced Program Coordinators are encouraged to attend to learn new information and share their wisdom.

Take note of the remaining dates for the calendar year:

September 17
October 15
November 19
December 10

For scheduling or additional information please contact:

Dr. Allison Ownby - 713.500.5131
allison.r.ownby@uth.tmc.edu

Dr. Peggy Hsieh - 713.500.7482
pei-hsuan.hsieh@uth.tmc.edu

A schedule can be found here:
https://med.uth.edu/oep/educator-resources/educator-development/educator-development-workshops/
It begins with an almost unnoticeable incident. You oversleep, you don’t answer a page, you perseverate over a minor conflict, you isolate from your support system. Stress, finances, relationships, sleep changes, and anxiety all piled on to your new responsibilities can be overwhelming. This can happen to anyone. Denial, although a common response, does not work. In such situations, it can be difficult to have a clear perspective on a solution. UTEAP, the provider for your employee assistance program, wants to remind you of the ways that the EAP can help.

The professionals at EAP are there to listen, provide you an independent perspective, coach you on strategies for addressing the issues, and guide you to resources, if needed. Our focus is on your wellbeing and building resiliency. The services at EAP are confidential and available to you and your family members. You and/or your family members have up to five sessions at no cost to you. If additional counseling or services are needed, the EAP professional will provide you with resources in the community. UTEAP has a network of licensed clinicians throughout the greater Houston areas so that services can be convenient to your work or your home. Some providers even offer late evening or weekend hours.

In addition to the counseling services, UTEAP also offers legal, financial and worklife resources for you and/or family. These include:

- 30-min consultation with an attorney and then a 25% discount off of fees if you retain the attorney
- 30 min consultation on any financial issue including identify theft, taxes, bankruptcy
- Childcare referrals and guides
- Eldercare referrals and guides
- Unlimited access to other worklife services through the webpage portal at https://www.horizoncarelink.com/loginUTEAP.aspx (name/password: uth/uth)

Call us to schedule an appointment or consult with us on the phone at 713.500.3327 or visit us online at UTEAP.org

-Monica K Guidry, LCSW-
UTHealth Counseling, WorkLife and Wellness Services