Program Evaluation in the NAS

Most of our ACGME residency training programs have transitioned into the Next Accreditation System (NAS) and have the tentative date for their next site visit in what seems to be the distant future. However, this doesn’t mean that programs can take it easy until then. The overarching aim of the NAS is “continuous improvement,” rather than episodic attempts to bring the program into compliance. One of the NAS requirements is that the GME Committee must review all programs every year. Over the last several months, the Quality and Accreditation Subcommittee reviewed 64 ACGME-accredited programs – quite an accomplishment! We hope that the information provided in the reviews will be useful, with the ultimate goal of assisting programs in their efforts to improve the training of their residents and fellows.

Once the self-study site visits begin, programs will be evaluated largely on two things:
1) Development of and progress on their Action Plans and
2) Their annual ACGME resident surveys

The Action Plan has been part of the Common Program Requirements for many years, but has received new emphasis in the NAS. At least annually, the Program Evaluation Committee should thoroughly review all aspects of the program and develop an Action Plan to address deficiencies. Progress should be monitored and additional items added to the plan, as needed. The whole process should follow the classic quality improvement cycle of Plan, Do, Study, Act. Just prior to the site visit, residents, as a group, will be asked to submit three strengths of the program and three areas for improvement. This information, along with the annual resident surveys, will be points of discussion during the site visit.

-Margaret Uthman, MD
Associate Dean for GME

New Arrivals

Please welcome our newest Program Directors and Coordinators. They are officially “new arrivals” since October, 2014.

Program Directors
- Ronda Alexander, MD
  Otolaryngology
- John P. Breinholt III, MD
  Pediatric Cardiology
- Monica Garcia (Program Manager)
  Internal Medicine
- Claudia Loza
  Pediatric Surgical Research
- Sherri McCollum
  Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry
- Jana Nguyen
  Anesthesiology
- Tracy Underwood
  Vascular Neurology
PC Corner — Nominate your Program Coordinator...

Did you know that there are national awards for residency program coordinators? The first award is the ACGME Program Coordinator Excellence Award. This award was created to honor and recognize the crucial role that program administrators play in the success of a residency program. The second type of awards are generally offered by each specialty such as the American Academy of Neurology, American College of Physicians, American College of Surgery, Emergency Medicine Resident’s Association, etc. These awards were created to recognize the residency coordinator who regularly goes above and beyond the call of duty for the good of the program and its residents; supports resident endeavors in extracurricular activities like community service, research, etc.; and actively supports resident involvement in their specialty organizations.

You can find the nomination forms on the website for each organization. Most nominations come from your Program Director, Designated Institutional Official (DIO) or your residents.

We have a great institution and an even greater graduate medical education community. Nominating our coordinators for these national awards is a step towards letting the country know that we are not only strong academically, but we are strong administratively. It is important that we, as an organization support our coordinators and recognize the hard work and dedication that each of them bring to their programs on a daily basis.

Kandice McLeod, ARC President
Department of Emergency Medicine

Got Best Practices?
Do you have any best practices you would like to share?
Some of the best ideas and practices come from within.

Contact GME with your information.

Resident Focus—Our Primary Teaching Hospital

I would like to share the rich history, involvement with the housestaff and recent developments of our primary teaching hospital, Memorial Hermann Hospital-Texas Medical Center (MHH-TMC).

MHH-TMC was founded in 1925 as Hermann Hospital. The hospital opened with 100 beds, and it was the first hospital in an area that was to become the Texas Medical Center. In the next 89 years, Hermann Hospital has been through many changes, including a merger with Memorial Health Care System to become known as Memorial Hermann Health Care System. Now, with over 1,000 beds, MHH-TMC is composed of Memorial Hermann Hospital-Texas Medical Center, Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital and TIRR Memorial Hermann Rehabilitation Hospital. The MHH-TMC campus also houses the Heart and Vascular Institute, the Mischer Neuroscience Institute, the Texas Trauma Institute and the Ironman Sport Medicine Institute.

In addition, MHH-TMC serves as the flagship hospital of Memorial Hermann Health Care System, one of only two Level One Trauma Centers in Houston, the only hospital to have a burn treatment center in Houston, home of the Memorial Hermann Life Flight and much more.

MHH-TMC is deeply involved with the housestaff. Besides providing a majority of compensation and benefits for the housestaff, MHH-TMC supports the monthly housestaff association meetings and stocks resident lounges with drinks and snacks. Furthermore, the housestaff executive council is currently working with MHH-TMC to fund social events for the housestaff outside of the hospital.

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/

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(More details coming soon.)

Recently, MHH-TMC was one of only 12 academic medical centers across the nation to receive the prestigious University Health System Consortium (UHC) Quality Leadership Award and also the Magnet Recognition for excellence in nursing services by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Magnet Recognition Program. We at the housestaff executive council thank the members of the housestaff for their excellent work that was instrumental in MHH-TMC receiving the UHC Quality Award and hope all of our members are as proud as we are to be part of MHH-TMC.

Richard S.P. Huang, M.D.
Housestaff President
Resident Orientation Dates for 2015

All Orientations are required for new, incoming Residents and Fellows.

**UTHealth GME Orientation**
MSB 1.006 7:00 am - 1:00 pm
Monday, June 22, 2015
Monday, June 29, 2015

**Harris Health/LBJ Orientation**
MSB 1.006
Wednesday, June 17, 2015
Wednesday, June 24, 2015

**MHH Orientation**
MHH Conference Center – 7 am
Tuesday, June 23, 2015
Tuesday, June 30, 2015

**Safety Bootcamp (Sponsored UTHealth & MHH)**
MHH Conference Center
Friday, June 19, 2015
Tuesday, June 30, 2015

**Special Recognition**
Congratulations to Dr. George Liao for receiving the **ACS Excellence in Research Award**
Dr. Liao is a resident in General Surgery
For details see: [https://med.uth.edu/news/surgery-resident-wins-national-award/](https://med.uth.edu/news/surgery-resident-wins-national-award/)

**Upcoming ARC Meetings**
The Association of Residency Coordinators (ARC) meets monthly, typically on the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 AM.
All new and experienced Program Coordinators are encouraged to attend to learn new information and share their wisdom.

**Call Us—We are here for you — Health and Wellness**

Our lives are full of change, opportunities, and challenges. It does not matter if these are big or small, personal, professional or family related. Life happens and each of us has our own way of coping and trying to prevent these situations from affecting our work or disrupting our home lives. Sometimes we could use a little help or guidance to get through each day. Maybe the UT Employee Assistance Program can help?
The University of Texas Employee Assistance Program (UTEAP) provides comprehensive EAP and Personal Life Services for all UT House Staff and their eligible family members. All services are free & confidential and designed to help residents and their families overcome life’s challenges when they might arise.

Through the EAP, you and members of your household can access a variety of services including counseling sessions with a local licensed mental health professional, free 30-minute face-to-face consultation with a local network attorney, as well as a 30-minute, no-cost telephonic consultation with our financial counselors.
Additionally, personal life services, information and referral/resources affecting family, health, time and money resources are available by phone, (713) 500–3327 or on the internet, via UTEAP’s Work Life website, [www.mylifevalues.com](http://www.mylifevalues.com) (username: uteap password: uteap).

**Reminder**
Personal life services, information and referral/resources affecting family, health, time and money resources are available by phone, or on the internet, via UTEAP’s Work Life website

- (713) 500–3327
- [www.mylifevalues.com](http://www.mylifevalues.com) (username: uteap password: uteap). Under my benefits tab, click on legal/financial services and you will have access to over 5,000 different legal and financial tools you can use for everyday life needs.

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

**A Special Thank you...**
After 35 years, including 11 years in the GME Office, David Kusnerik is retiring from UTHealth. We will miss his expertise, counsel and friendship. David has been an invaluable resource for all of us. We wish him well in his new position at Houston Methodist Hospital.
**GME Office Contacts**

713.500.5151  JJJL 310  

DIO—Margaret Uthman, MD  
GME Director—David E. Kusnerik  
GME Coordinator—April Bass  
Accreditation Issues:  
Jacqueline Brooks  
Kiesha Sloan  
Visitor Rotations—  
Jennifer Chavez  
Administrative Support—  
Esmeralda Maseda  
Verifications—Paula Ramsay  

[https://med.uth.edu/oep/gme/](https://med.uth.edu/oep/gme/)

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**Save the Date**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>Survey Design (MSB B.612)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 17, 2015</td>
<td>Spring Coordinators Meetings Lunch will be served.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 26-Mar 1</td>
<td>ACGME Annual Educational Conference (San Diego, CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 13</td>
<td>Understanding Learner Motivation (MSB B.612)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 10</td>
<td>Matching Assessment (Test Items) to Learning Objectives: Writing and Analyzing Test Questions (MSB B.612)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 10</td>
<td>GME Leadership Retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 23-27, 2015</td>
<td>GRA Spring Meeting (Austin, TX)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13-15, 2015</td>
<td>AHME Institute (San Diego, CA)</td>
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**Special Recognition**

Congratulations to the following coordinators for earning their TAGME Certification:

Shirlene Edwards  
Pediatrics  

Kimberly Self  
Neonatology

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**Education Spotlight**

*Monthly Educational Development Sessions*

In addition to the resident workshops that can be scheduled on demand, the Office of Educational Programs also offers monthly educational development sessions to faculty, fellows, and residents. These workshops are held on Fridays of each month, from 12:00-1:00PM in room MSB B.612. Workshops include topics related to effective teaching and educational research. All workshops will be delivered in an interactive format with many hands-on activities to engage faculty in conversations related to strategies to enhance current teaching and evaluation methods.

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**Do you have an idea or topic for the GME Newsletter?**

Contact: Jacqueline.Brooks@uth.tmc.edu before March 1 to make the Spring Issue.

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**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

The next sessions will be:

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Concise & to the point... so that people will respond to our surveys. The goal of this workshop is to provide you with tips on writing effective survey questions. Participants are encouraged to bring their own survey questions to analyze and revise.

Why are some students motivated but not others? The workshop will explore the different reasons people are motivated and provide strategies for motivating learners.

How should a multiple choice question look? The goal of the workshop is to provide suggestions for item-writing. Participants are encouraged to bring their own test questions to revise.