



The mission of Rocky Mountain OPTI is to exceed the highest standards of excellence for osteopathic postgraduate training.



RMOPTI Research & Faculty Development E-Bulletin

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Dear Colleagues:

After a meeting last month with leaders from the ACGME, AOA and AACOM to discuss the transition to the GME single accreditation system, I came away very optimistic about our progress and pleased with the continued strong collaboration between partner organizations. But I am still concerned by the misunderstanding and apprehension that continues to persist among some of our colleagues. And it troubles me that this anxiety may be preventing some programs from moving forward in the process in a timely manner.

Below are a few facts that you need to know. We are preparing a detailed report on the transition to be presented at the House of Delegates on Friday, July 22. This information will be shared with you.

- **The ACGME Review Committees continue to approve AOA program directors who meet qualifications, across specialties in almost every circumstance.** The current list of Review Committees that will consider AOA-certified program directors can be viewed [here](#).
- **The ACGME is scheduled to consider revisions to the Common Program Requirements later this year,** including the review of sections regarding the program director and faculty qualifications.

- **ACGME's Board of Directors recognizes that osteopathic graduates may take osteopathic certifying board exams.** They have instructed Review Committees to propose language regarding board certification requirements to include AOA certifying board pass rates. To date, the Review Committees for Orthopedic Surgery, Neurological Surgery and Otolaryngology have [posted](#) proposed requirement revisions that include pass rates for osteopathic certification exams, and most other Review Committees will be doing the same in the coming weeks.
- **Program size will not prevent AOA programs from achieving initial accreditation.** Review Committees for the program's specialty reviews the program to make an assessment of "substantial compliance" with ACGME standards. The size of a program alone will not prevent the program from achieving initial accreditation. Please contact the AOA immediately at 312-202-8272 if you are getting conflicting feedback from your field representative.
- **Lack of documentation of scholarly activity is a common citation across specialties, for both AOA and ACGME programs.** In some applications, this section has been left blank, while in others, evidence is missing from faculty credentials. While the requirements vary somewhat by specialty, the description of faculty scholarship in the ACGME Common Program Requirements includes, "*demonstrating scholarship by one or more of the following: peer-reviewed funding; publication of original research or review articles in peer reviewed journals, or chapters in textbooks; publication or presentation of case reports or clinical series at local, regional, or national professional and scientific society meetings; or, participation in national committees or educational organizations.*" If you're unsure about what qualifies, contact the [AOA Application Assistance Program](#) or the Review Committee [Executive Director](#) for your specialty. The ACGME requires that each section of the application be completed before submitting.
- **Osteopathic board certification is here to stay!** DOs will continue to have the option to choose AOA board certification, and it will also be open to qualified MDs. AOA certification remains an important step DOs can take to reinforce their osteopathic training and preserve their osteopathic distinctiveness. It's also an important quality marker for patients, employers, insurers and regulators. View the AOA/ABMS training eligibility requirements for specialty certification [here](#).

APPLICATIONS BY THE NUMBERS (as of July 15, 2016)

INSTITUTIONS

- 121 sponsoring institution applications in progress
 - 77 submitted applications; 44 achieved initial accreditation
 - 44 open applications (not yet submitted)

PROGRAMS

- 471 program applications in progress
 - 216 submitted applications; 46 achieved initial accreditation and 7 are initial accreditation contingent
 - 255 open applications (not yet submitted) including at least 61 family medicine and 53 internal medicine programs and fellowships
- Applications from 4, 5 and 6-year programs are coming at twice the rate of 3-year programs

OSTEOPATHIC RECOGNITION

- 55 submitted applications; 36 achieved initial recognition

NOTE: More Review Committee meetings will occur in August, September and October