May 1, 2018

Welcome to the first letter in a series of 4 which will discuss the ACGME, Continuing Medical Education, Advocacy, and Membership issues which affect the AOCD.

There are many misconceptions regarding the ACGME single graduate medical accreditation system and what it means for the AOCD.

**TRUE or FALSE?**
Once the ACGME merge is complete, the AOCD will no longer be viable and will cease to exist.

**FALSE!**
The AOCD is a membership organization committed to providing Continuing Medical Education to its members. In our next letter, we will expand on this topic.

**TRUE or FALSE?**
Once the ACGME merge is complete, osteopathic medicine will lose its osteopathic distinctiveness.

**FALSE!**
Osteopathic physicians are trained to promote the body's natural tendency toward health and self-healing. There are more than 100,000 DOs in the US, practicing their distinct philosophy in every medical specialty.

**SO WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS THING CALLED SINGLE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION ACCREDITATION SYSTEM?**

On February 26, 2014, the ACGME, American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) announced their agreement to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining a single graduate medical education accreditation system in the United States.

The single GME accreditation system allows graduates of allopathic and osteopathic medical schools to complete their residency and/or fellowship education in ACGME-accredited programs and demonstrate achievement of common Milestones and competencies. **On June 30, 2020, the AOA will no longer accredit residency training programs.** AOCD residency programs must apply to ACGME if they wish to continue to train residents past 2020.

There are 4 parts to the MOU. The first part of the Agreement focuses on AOA-approved residency programs.

The second part of the Agreement is clarification of the eligibility of osteopathic graduates to enter advanced training in ACGME-accredited programs. Once a program achieves ACGME accreditation, graduates will be from an ACGME accredited program, and will be eligible for all advanced training positions in all ACGME-accredited programs.
The third part of the Agreement discusses osteopathic medical principles within ACGME. The ACGME Residency Review Committees for which there are osteopathic programs will have one or more full voting osteopathic members. In addition, two new committees have been created within the ACGME. The Osteopathic Principles Committee, whose role will be to establish standards and evaluate program compliance in the Osteopathic Principles dimension of residency training; this will provide for programs to be recognized as offering training in Osteopathic Principles. The Neuromusculoskeletal Review Committee, which will set standards and render accreditation decisions for neuromusculoskeletal and osteopathic manipulative medicine programs.

The fourth part of the Agreement is the incorporation of AOA and AACOM in the governance structure of ACGME. AOA and AACOM will become full members of the ACGME.

The AOA will cease its graduate medical education accreditation activities on June 30, 2020, or it will withdraw with AACOM as members of ACGME prior to that date.

Board certification and Certificates of Added Qualifications remain intact and will continue into the future per the AOA.

As of April 10, 2018, the following AOCD Residency Training Programs had achieved Initial Accreditation with ACGME:

- KCU-GMEC/Alta Dermatology
- LECOMT/Larkin Community Hospital
- NSUCOM/Largo Medical Center
- SCS/MSUCOM/Botsford Hospital
- SCS/MSUCOM/Saint Joseph Mercy Still
- NYCOMC/Palisades Medical Center
- LECOMT/St. John’s Episcopal Hospital
- KCU-GMEC/Tri-County Dermatology
- OPTI-West/Silver Falls Dermatology
- Texas OPTI/Bay Area Corpus Christi Medical Center
- KCU-GMEC/Dermatology Residency of Orlando
- NSUCOM/Broward Health Medical Center
- OMNEE/Park Avenue Dermatology
- SCS/MSUCOM/Oakwood Healthcare System
- OPTI/Northeast Regional Medical Center
- OMNEE/Sampson Regional Medical Center
- CORE/O’Bleness Memorial Hospital
- LECOMT/University Hospitals Regional
- PCOM/Lehigh Valley Health Network

Stay informed and visit both the AOA and ACGME websites for more information and FAQ’s on the ACGME.

http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/single-gme-accreditation-system/Pages/frequently-asked-questions.aspx#certification

http://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Nasca-Community/FAQs.pdf

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