MESSAGE FROM THE GME COMMITTEE CHAIR

Alan D. Woolf, MD, MPH

We welcome the new residents and fellows as they pursue excellence during their experiences in graduate medical education at Children’s Hospital. We are challenged by the advent of changes in how we measure the progress of trainees in their acquisition of the requisite knowledge, skills, and professionalism necessary for independent surgical and medical practice, termed ‘milestones’. Implementing the MILESTONES PROJECT is an integral part of our strategic plan over the next 12-24 months as we move into the ACGME’s Next Accreditation System. Read more about these changes in how we assess the progress of trainees in this and future newsletters.

Comings & Goings: On behalf of our GMEC members and staff and all of our training program directors and coordinators, we want to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Mira Irons, for her contributions to GME at Children’s Hospital over the past 5 years as the Director of Internal Reviews and most recently as the Co-chair of the GME Committee. She has helped us to accomplish an extraordinary amount of work in GME during her tenure and we are very grateful for her expertise and her wonderful, collaborative spirit. Please see the article elsewhere in this newsletter for details of Mira’s plans.

We also want to take this opportunity to say goodbye to Mr. Jeremy Levy, our associate administrative coordinator for these past two years, who is moving to New York City to pursue other opportunities in the health care field. Jeremy has been a tremendous help in the Office of GME in a range of different activities so important to our daily operations, including the composition and production of this newsletter! We wish Jeremy and his wife well in all their new and exciting endeavors.

We want to congratulate Dr. Young-Jo Kim for his recent appointment as program training director of the Pediatric Orthopedics Fellowship. Our congratulations to Dr. Kim in his new position and our thanks to the former training program director in orthopedics, Dr. James Kasser, for a job well done!

We also want to congratulate Dr. Isabelle Chase on her recent appointment as training program director for the Pediatric Dental Residency; and our thanks go to the outgoing director, Dr. Linda Nelson, for her important contributions to the success of that training program.

We also want to welcome Ms. Michelle Chung, the education manager for the Department of Anesthesiology and all of its training programs. Michelle has administrative oversight for the department’s five training programs.

Two fellowship coordinators, Ms. Lee Hillman in Pain Medicine, and Ms. Bridget Carr in Neonatal/Perinatal Medicine, have left the Hospital to pursue other opportunities. Both were active members of the GME Committee. We applaud their many contributions to these two excellent training programs and we wish them well. Ms. Carr will stay involved with GME as she takes on new responsibilities in the GME Office at Tufts University Medical Center.

Finally we want to congratulate Dr. Elizabeth Barkoudah, who has recently been appointed as the associate training program director for the Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (NDD) training program. Dr. Barkoudah will be assisting Dr. David Urion, who continues as the training director for NDD fellows.

In conjunction with the Boston Combined Residency Program (BCRP), the GME Office will sponsor a retreat for educators, training program directors and coordinators on October 30th from 8:00 am-1:00pm in the Folkman Auditorium of the Enders Building. This outstanding hospital-wide event will include faculty development in the areas of leadership and teaching skills and strategies for resident education.
and fellow evaluation. Dr. Jennifer Kesselheim, our GME educator, has been working closely with Dr. Ted Sectish of the BCRP to develop offerings at this retreat that center around the MILESTONES PROJECT and its implementation across all of our training programs. This will be a can’t-miss opportunity to share ideas on how to address effectively the coming revolution in GME assessment practices, a revolution that will affect equally all of our trainees and our faculty!

The Office for GME, in partnership with the Program in Patient Safety & Quality (PPSQ) at Children’s Hospital, has continued to define a reformulated jointly-administered Education Committee. The committee, led by Dr. Jennifer Kesselheim of the GME office and Nancy Dunn from the Medical Staff Office/PPSQ, has begun to pursue goals and objectives on teaching aspects of improving the health care and the safety of patients. It has already issued research awards to trainees who have proposed new research endeavors to improve patient care and safety at Children’s Hospital. The committee has also been developing surveys of trainees with respect to the proper balance of supervision they receive during their daily patient care-related activities.

The next meeting of the GMEC will be held on Monday, November 11th, 2013 from 5-6 pm in the Gamble Reading Room in the house-staff library. All training program directors, associate directors, coordinators, and resident/fellow representatives are invited to attend. We hope to see you there!

Office of GME Continues to Pursue Its Strategic Plan for 2012-2014

The advent of the Next Accreditation System (NAS) of the ACGME prompted the BCH Office of GME to craft a new strategic plan (SP) in 2011 after a self-study period that included surveys of both faculty and trainees and discussions within the GME Committee itself. The SP for 2012-2014 emphasizes new curricular offerings for trainees, new metrics for measuring training program accomplishments, and new opportunities for faculty development. We are now two years into initiating a number of innovative approaches to meet the perceived needs of the 402 trainees in its ACGME certified training programs and the faculty who train and inspire them. These include, in addition to the current functions of the GME Office and its advisory GME Committee, six new areas of concentration:

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT: semi-annual, multi-institutional GME training director-oriented faculty development retreats. The Office of GME continues to be heavily engaged in faculty development activities including semi-annual retreats for training program directors held in December 2012 and May 2013. The next retreat will take place on October 30th, 2013.

TRACKING PROGRAM GME METRICS: routinely updated, institution-wide dashboard of medical education outcomes that facilitates the tracking of progress of individual training programs towards achieving their educational goals. Under the leadership of Dan Herrick in 2012-2013, the GME Data Coordinator, a color-coded scorecard has been developed that monitors of the progress of all 39 certified training programs in satisfying objectives in 14 different administrative indicators of success in GME. Besides comparative scales across the 39 programs, the scorecard also includes national benchmarks.

HOSPITAL-WIDE TRAINEE CURRICULUM: a hospital-wide universal trainee curriculum in topics such as ethics and professionalism, patient safety, the monitoring and improvement of clinical care, aspects of teaching and scholarship, and the pursuit of high-quality scientific research. Drs. Jennifer Kesselheim, Ted Sectish implemented the first session of ‘Strategies for Academic Success’ (SAS) in the Spring of 2013.

WEB-BASED GME RESOURCES: GME internal web-site at BCH that is easily navigated and provides templates, tools, policies, and other GME information of importance to all customers: training directors, trainees, faculty, GME staffers, and hospital administrative officials. The Office of GME has collaborated with the House-staff Library starting in 2012 to offer web-based residency and fellowship tools through the BCH Lib Guide site.

EXPANDED GME DAY: an expansion of the annual “GME Day at Boston Children’s Hospital” to include the public reporting of abstracts of GME research projects, quality improvement initiatives, and funded works-in-progress. For the first time, 8 GME-related research posters were presented during GME Day in May of 2013.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS: new efforts to exploit the resources available through the HMS Academy, the Teaching Academy at BCH, and HMS facilities and faculty to the advantage of pediatric residents and fellows training at BCH. For the first time, in May 2013, the Office of GME and the Teaching Academy at BCH offered a joint afternoon faculty

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We have made tremendous progress in all of these six areas of goals and objectives over the past two years. In 2013 we have added a seventh goal of the SP, namely the MILESTONE PROJECT; this goal will focus on changes in how we evaluate trainee competencies and achievements during the course of their training.

Faculty, staff, residents, and fellows are invited to comment on these elements of the Strategic Plan or to make further suggestions for additions and changes they would like to see. Please send all communications to Alan Woolf, MD, MPH, BCH Designated Institutional Official for ACGME at: alan.woolf@childrens.harvard.edu.

Dr. Mira Irons Steps Down As GME Committee Co-Chair

Dr. Mira Irons has relinquished her role as the Co-Chair of the Hospital-Wide GME Committee in order to join the Chicago-based American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the leading not-for-profit organization that oversees the certification and assessment of physician specialists in the United States. The ABMS has appointed Dr. Irons as the organization’s senior vice president (SVP) for academic affairs.

Dr. Irons has been an integral member of the GME Office staff for the past 5 years. In addition to her GME Office duties, she also currently oversees clinical operations of the Division of Genetics at Boston Children’s Hospital and serves as an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Besides three decades of experience in academic medicine gained on the faculties of the Harvard Medical School and Tufts University School of Medicine, she has been active in leadership positions with numerous professional societies. She is President of the Association of Professors of Human and Medical Genetics (APHMG), a member of the Board of Directors and CME Officer for the American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) and is the ACMG representative to the Council of Medical Specialty Societies. Additionally, she is the immediate past chair of the Medical Genetics Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

Dr. Irons will hold a critical ABMS post. She will oversee core ABMS programs and staff that serve to advance improved standards and methods for certification, continuing certification and lifelong assessment, expand ABMS international programs and develop ABMS research initiatives and collaborations. She brings an impressive breadth and depth of experience in academic medicine, clinical practice, medical professional leadership and scientific research and will officially assume her ABMS role in October. We sincerely thank Dr. Irons for her outstanding contributions to GME at Boston Children’s Hospital and we wish her continued success and accomplishment in her new position.

Debra Boyer Named New Co-Chair of Hospital-Wide GME Committee

Dr. Debra Boyer, an attending physician in pulmonary medicine and the current fellowship training director of the pediatric pulmonary medicine fellowship training program at Boston Children’s Hospital, has been named as the new co–chair of the Hospital’s GME Committee. Dr. Boyer completed her MD degree at Columbia University, her residency training at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and has earned accolades as a gifted educator. Dr. Boyer received the Fellows Teaching Award at BCH in 2000, the Janeway Service Award in 2006, the Pulmonary Fellow Teaching Award in 2007, and The Teaching Academy at BCH’s Medical Educator Award in 2013. She has served in the past as a Master Teacher of HMS 2nd and 4th year medical students completing rotations at BCH, she participates in Senior Rounds, and she continues to serve as a teacher and mentor to many residents and fellows rotating on the pulmonary service and within the lung transplant and pediatric bronchoscopy programs. In 2010, she was a scholar in the Harvard Macy Program for Educators in the Health Professions.

Dr. Boyer has also been active nationally in organizations related to medical education. She is currently president of the Pediatric Pulmonaryology Training Director’s Association.
Dr. Boyer succeeds Dr. Mira Irons, who recently left the post to assume new responsibilities with the American Board of Medical Subspecialties (see related article elsewhere in this newsletter). She joins Dr. Alan Woolf, who serves as the current Chair of the GME Committee. We congratulate Dr. Boyer on her new position!

Residents & Fellows Reminded of Mandatory Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Training

The Office for GME, in partnership with the Program in Patient Safety & Quality (PPSQ) at Children’s Hospital and officials at the independent Institute for Health Care Improvement (IHI) Open School for Health Professions, has offered for the past 4 years a novel way to help individual programs satisfy the two ACGME competencies: ‘practice-based learning & improvement’ and ‘systems-based practice’. Modules were created by the IHI with input from Children’s Hospital faculty in 2007-2008 and first implemented here in 2009. The mandatory on-line educational modules are intended for all residents and clinical fellows and must be completed during the course of their training. Eight modules cover 4 different themes; each takes about 15-20 minutes to complete. The trainee must achieve a 75% post-module test score to pass each section. The curricular content is as follows:

**Theme 1: Human Factors in Complex Systems**
Understanding the science of human factors

**Theme 2: Medical Errors and Patient Harm**
To error is human
Errors happen anywhere and to anyone

**Theme 3: Communication among Individuals and Teams**
Why are teamwork and communication important?
Basic tools and techniques
Communication during times of transition

**Theme 4: Adverse Event Reporting and System Improvement**
Identifying & reporting errors
An overview for the model of improvement

Although some individual training programs have elected to offer their own QI curriculum and their residents or fellows can waive participation in the IHI modules, this on-line course offers a high quality standardized method of fulfilling, in part, compliance with ACGME requirements in practice-based learning and improvement. So far more than 500 physician trainees have completed the series. New rules enacted in 2013 will exempt those trainees newly entering fellowship programs at Boston Children's Hospital who have already completed the modules once, as former residents or fellows in other training experiences completed here at BCH.

[Note: These mandatory QI training modules can be found at the Graduate Medical Education Program area of the internal website of Children’s Hospital under ‘Medical Care & Quality Improvement’.]

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