



NEWSLETTER Spring 2014

Greetings all! The purpose of this newsletter is to provide updates on several items discussed at the SPCTPD meeting at the ACC in Washington, DC. There were 26 attendees either in person or by conference call on March 31. Several important issues were discussed in detail:

Proposed Match Cycle Change: We discussed in detail the pros/cons of a change in the NRMP fellowship match cycle in pediatric cardiology from the current spring match to a later fall match. A proposal to change to the fall match for fellows starting training in July 2016 will require a formal vote by SPCTPD members:

- An electronic election ballot will be distributed to each program director **with paid SPCTPD dues for academic year 2013-2014** (see below for dues information).
- Voting by election ballot **deadline** will be **May 15**.
- According to SPCTPD constitutional by-laws, a 75% majority of votes will pass the measure

2013-2014 Dues: Our fiscal year has transitioned to be on the academic year cycle (July 1-June 30). Dues are \$100 per program and are now due for AY 2013-2014; as of this newsletter, 24 of 56 programs have paid dues. Our dues go to support our website, involvement in the Council of Pediatric Subspecialties (CoPS) and the Joint Council on Congenital Heart Disease. Here's how to pay:

- Go to www.spctpd.com and click on the green "Pay Dues" tab. This brings up correct contact and mailing information for our Treasurer, Dr. Antonio Cabrera. For the current academic year, payment is by check. Antonio can provide an invoice if helpful in arranging payment, simply contact him at agcabrer@bcm.edu
- Starting in July, a new electronic invoice process for AY 2014-2015 will be piloted, with weblink for direct payment through Bank of America.

Revised Training Guidelines: Steering Committee Co-Chairs Drs. Robert Ross and Mike Brook report that the pediatric cardiology fellowship training guidelines revision process is nearly completed, with submitted revisions from each subcommittee including inpatient/outpatient/preventive, non-invasive imaging, catheterization, electrophysiology, heart failure/transplant/pulm hypertension, adult congenital, cardiac intensive care, and research. Revised guidelines are currently in final draft form and are under review, with about 70 individuals involved in the process.

Preparing for the Next Accreditation System (NAS): Dr. Shubhika Srivastava gave an overview of the NAS, with focus on the Clinical Competency Committee (CCC), which all programs will need to have in place to report on the ACGME subcompetencies for each fellow beginning in December 2014. That presentation is posted on our SPCTPD website, but some key points include:

- A CCC has minimum 3 members, which (unlike SOCs) can include the program director
- Must meet at least every 6 months to review 360 degree evaluations
- Subcompetencies reporting to ACGME will be biannual, starting December 2014
- Members of the CCC (again unlike SOCs) will not be reported to ACGME

ACGME Core Faculty: We discussed differing interpretations of what constitutes our “Core Faculty” to the ACGME. Thanks to Mike Brook for obtaining some clarity from ACGME leadership:

- Core faculty are determined by the program director as those who devote “significant time” to the fellowship training program – we determine this on a practical basis
- For the purposes of the Annual Faculty Survey in ACGME ADS system, make sure those faculty you determine are Core Faculty are listed as having more than 15 hours of teaching time/week so that they are assigned the survey
- Clarification: teaching time **includes** direct supervision of fellows in patient care

Common Evaluations and EPA Mapping: Drs. Lowell Frank and Peter Koenig are spearheading an effort to develop some common rotation evaluations (eg, non-invasive, catheterization) in which Entrustable Professional Activities and other rotation-specific skills and behaviors are mapped to the ACGME sub-competencies. These common rotation evaluations will serve as templates that programs can adopt and modify as necessary. Committees are being formed to help develop these, if you are interested in helping please contact Lowell Frank at LFrank@childrensnational.org.

Workforce Issues and Tightening Job Market: Dr. David Brown gave a short presentation on workforce issues, and noted a national trend a tighter job market in many regions, particularly New England. The annual number of trainees in pediatric cardiology has doubled from 70 to 140 in the past 10 years. As a group we will need to pay careful attention to ensure that we are not overtraining. Dr. Gerard Martin noted that further information on the current pediatric cardiology work force is being gathered by the ACC and will be available soon.

Time-Limited Eligibility For Initial Board Certification: The ABP’s new 7 year limit after completion of training to pass the board exam is now resulting in loss of board eligibility for some former fellows. ABP requires that these individuals undergo a year of “comprehensive clinical training” (not otherwise specified) at an ACGME-accredited fellowship program. There is already a need for programs willing to provide this service. There is no mechanism for funding; ABP is aware that programs may need to charge such individuals for this service. If your program is willing to do this type of re-training, please contact David Brown and this can be posted on SPCTPD.com.

American College of Cardiology and Fellows In Training: Help the American College of Cardiology's Adult Congenital and Pediatric (ACPC) Section increase pediatric cardiology Fellows in Training (FIT) perspective within the College by enrolling your trainees in ACC's complimentary FIT membership. Trainees enrolled in an accredited cardiovascular training program in the U.S. or Canada will receive College benefits and opportunities through the FIT membership program. Training directors or coordinators may enroll FITs through CardioSource.org through July 1, 2014. Please contact Kristin West at kwest@acc.org to access the portal.

New Website: www.spctpd.com has migrated to a new server and has a new look. It is now easy to post messages, jobs, links to courses and other documents. If you have material you would like posted, or have ideas about useful links, please send them to me (david.brown@cardio.chboston.org).

Thank you for your support,

SPCTPD Board