

# Program Director's Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

April 23, 2012

*Purpose: To assist Program Directors so that they may stay up to date on the latest news, policies, and changes from the AOA and AOCOO-HNS Council on Medical Education.*

## Items of Interest from the AOCOO-HNS Council of Medical Education February 2012 and AOA PTRC April 2012

### 1. Urge residents to submit research papers prior to deadline.

Regarding the resident paper requirements, the Editorial Committee needs several months to review all of the resident papers. The AOCOO-HNS Council of Medical Education asks that Program Directors urge their residents to submit their work several weeks earlier than the deadline, if possible.

### 2. Contact the Editorial Committee.

The Editorial Committee is a hard-working group, dedicated to improving the quality of scholarly activity across our residencies. The members are available to our residents and Program Directors throughout the year for consultation on appropriate paper construction and content. Though it is the responsibility of the Program Director to supervise the writing of the resident paper, assistance and assurance from the Editorial Committee along the way can minimize delays and rewrites. Contact information for the Editorial Committee members is available by contacting the College Office.

### 3. All program inspections will now be utilizing the new inspection workbook.

Prior to your next inspection, please familiarize yourself with the new crosswalk style inspection workbook. It is verbatim from the new Basic Standards, with each standard assigned a point value. The emphasis of inspections is to verify compliance with the Basic Standards. Inspectors will be reviewing documentation that supports this compliance. The new workbook is an objective "check off" listing, minimizing ambiguity and bias, AND paving the way for independent inspectors.

### 4. How will we follow the money in the future?

*Outcomes and Quality Improvement Processes* are the future of medical education. CMS reimbursement for medical education is taking a hard look in this direction and may well shift payments based on how we demonstrate these concepts. Evaluation of outcomes ("success") of residency programs may include pass rates on first time certifying board test takers, number of years of approval granted on program inspection, scholarly activities such as faculty lectures and publications, and utilization of surgical simulation.

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**96th ACA Residency Program  
Director's Workshop  
Wednesday, May 9th, 2012  
12:00 noon-4:00 pm**

**PROGRAM**

11:30 am - Lunch

12:15-12:30 - The Osteopathic Continuous  
Certification (OCC) Process: What Program  
Directors and Residents Need to Know  
*Benjamin Murcek, DO*

12:30-2:00 pm - Didactic Teaching in the  
21st Century: Adult Learners, Interactive  
Teaching and the Internet  
*Bryan Kane, MD & Franklin Medio, PhD*

2:00-2:15 pm - Break

2:15-3:00 pm - Developing Criteria and  
Benchmarks for Monitoring the Progress of  
Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology  
Residents: An Update  
*Wayne Robbins, DO & Sidney Simonian, DO*

3:00-3:30 pm - Succession Planning for  
Program Directors: How Do YOU Select the  
Right Person When It's Time to Step Down?  
*Franklin Medio, PhD*

3:30-4:30 pm - *Separate Otolaryngology and  
Ophthalmology Breakout Sessions*

Equally important is the measured evaluation of individual resident outcomes. So, what are "they" asking us to do now? In a nutshell, we must identify our most representative diagnoses, and the means to *measure* their outcomes, and then *measure* them. AND, if those outcomes don't meet acceptable standards we must have processes in place for improving them (Quality Improvement Processes). The AOCOO-HNS Council of Medical Education will direct our efforts to assist Program Directors in this endeavor.

**5. Ask not.....Ask what you can do for your College!**

As Program Directors, we have exposure and first-hand knowledge of the future leaders of our Colleges. Yes, another of our responsibilities is to nurture, encourage, mentor, etc. those residents who demonstrate leadership skills to seek early involvement in our Colleges, and then follow through by introducing those residents to the current leadership. Remember, our residents are our profession's future.

**6. Encourage recently certified members to get involved in the AOBBO.**

The Board of Examiners is continually updating and improving the quality of these exams. It's a tremendous task! How about giving them a hand by encouraging your residents and recent graduates to attend the Board's Question Writer's Seminars, and then to begin submitting questions to the Board? Individuals interested in submitting test questions should contact the AOBBO in order to receive proper direction and instruction.

**7. New kids on the block!!**

Three new programs in ophthalmology will be opening this July. One is in California, and two are in Florida. More formal introductions are to come in the next *Program Directors Newsletter*. In light of recent program closures and cutbacks, this is a most welcome piece of news.

This concludes Issue #2 of the Program Director's Newsletter. I welcome your comments, questions, and critiques. (Is anyone out there reading this??)

Sincerely,

Sidney Kay Simonian, DO  
Chair, Council on Medical Education  
AOCOOHNS