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April 20, 2020

Craig Brater, MD
President and CEO
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
330 John Carlyle Street, Suite 610
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Dr. Brater,

On behalf of the Association of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Program Directors (APCCMPD) Board of Directors (BOD) we appreciate this opportunity to provide feedback on revisions being considered for the upcoming subspecialty fellowship application season. The APCCMPD is an independent not-for-profit national medical specialty society and is comprised of 95% of all ACGME Accredited Pulmonary, Critical Care (CCM), and combined Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine (PCCM) Fellowship Training Programs.

Our BOD reviewed the considerations forwarded by our representative, Dr. Craig Piquette, and convened a rapid survey of past board members and current board members including a fellow representative. The BOD and our respondents, including representation from programs affected drastically by the COVID-19 Pandemic in New York City, **overwhelmingly felt that Plan C, delaying documents due in ERAS to Sep 1, was the best option.**

Delaying the fellowship application document deadlines to September 1 for residents was felt to be the most appropriate way to allow heavily-affected residents enough time to prepare their applications, yet still allow the December 2 Match Day date be maintained. This, however, does in turn delay interview season to conclude later in November. We recognize that this results in a collision with the residency interview season. Our BOD recommends that consideration be made to shorten the program director (PD) review period, which could enable programs to interview as early as the last 2 weeks of September. Some PDs feel they don't need a full 6 weeks to review applications to determine interview selection and would rather use the time late in September to start interview season. Delaying the start to residency interviews could also help avoid inopportune proximities of fellowship and residency interview seasons. In addition, this has the benefit of allowing applicants to residency programs more time to prepare a complete application.

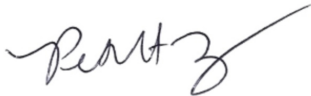
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We are aware that the majority of medical schools in the United States have been significantly impacted by this pandemic as well, and it is anticipated that students will not be any more prepared for the residency application season than residents will be for the fellowship application season.

Once again we appreciate this opportunity to provide feedback on possible revisions and changes so important to pulmonary, critical care, and pulmonary-critical care fellowship program directors from across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Lenz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Lenz, MD, MEd
President
Association of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Program Directors

CC:

Debra Simmons, MD, MS, ASP President
Bergitta E. Cotroneo, FACMPE, AAIM Deputy CEO
Craig Piquette, MD, APCCMPD Past President and ASP Guest
Joyce Reitzner, MBA, MIPH, APCCMPD Executive Director