



Email Correspondence

Sent: March 13, 2020

To: Sanjay Desai, MD, ACGME Internal Medicine Review Committee

From: APCCMPD Board of Directors

Sanjay,

Thank you for this dialogue and thanks again for presenting yesterday. As discussed at the conclusion of your presentation, we have drafted the communication below from our BOD for you to share with your ACGME colleagues in regards to the effects of COVID-19 on educational timelines.

As COVID-19 has moved from epidemic to a pandemic, the strain seen on health care systems outside of the US has become the focus of planning, training and patient care across U.S. medical centers. Members of the pulmonary and critical care (PCCM) community along with our colleagues in internal medicine, hospitalist medicine, and infectious disease (among a few) are actively involved in preparedness planning and / or actively caring for patients with confirmed COVID-19 and patients under investigation (PUIs). We are and will remain at the frontline of patient care and planning for the foreseeable future as the pandemic unfolds in the US. As Academic Medical Centers across the country ban / limit in-person meetings and friends and colleagues are placed on quarantine, we must focus on our team and work to address their concerns, fears and feelings of isolation. Furthermore, as leaders within our division, many of us are involved in PPE training to ensure safety of health care workers (including fellows), drafting policies, planning for surge and on clinical service caring for patients. As one could imagine this has put a strain, both physical and emotional, on all faculty, fellows, and leaders, including program directors. At this time, the health, safety and wellbeing of our patients, trainees (fellows, residents), hospital staff and colleagues are and must be our highest priority.

With all of this in mind, it should be evident to the ACGME that faculty and fellow development around the new annual survey, preparedness and meetings to complete self-studies and site visits for 2020 and 2021 are not possible. On behalf of the board of the Association of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Program Directors, representing 94% of all ACGME accredited Pulmonary, Critical Care Medicine and Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine Fellowship Programs, we respectfully request the ACGME postpones the annual survey, 2020 self-study deadlines and site visits. Furthermore, we request that upon reviewing annual survey results the ACGME takes into consideration the lack of faculty and fellow development around the new survey and the likely impact the pandemic will have on trainee and faculty wellbeing and morale.

We appreciate these opportunities to discuss these important matters.

Sincerely,
The APCCMPD Board of Directors