The Thoracic Surgery RRC last met July 12-13, 2013. The meeting was led by Walter Merrill (Chair), and attended by Carl Backer (Vice-Chair), Bob Higgins, Helen Merritt (resident member), Bill Baumgartner (ex-officio for the ABTS), Peggy Simpson (Executive Director), and Cathy Ruiz (ACGME). Dr. Tommy D’Amico was absent.

Committee Business
The Committee remembered Dr. Carolyn Reed and her invaluable contributions to the Committee including her work with Milestones development and transitioning from CTSNet to the ACGME case log system. The Committee unanimously determined that it would ask the resident member to consider serving one additional year on the RRC, in accordance with ACGME policy. She agreed, making her final date of service on the RRC June 30, 2015.

Also of note, and outside the usual course of business, the Thoracic Surgery Milestones were published on the ACGME website in September 2013 and are available at the following link: http://www.acgme.org/acgmeweb/Portals/0/PDFs/Milestones/ThoracicSurgeryMilestones.pdf

Also, the initial meeting of the Congenital Cardiac Surgery Milestones working group meeting was held on October 4, 2013 and chaired by Dr. Backer.

The Committee approved an update to the Application Criteria for Integrated Programs so that the criteria aligned with the Next Accreditation System policies, including requiring a site visit for all integrated program applications.

Program Review Activities
In this RRC meeting the Committee reviewed and considered the following:
- 6 Initial Accreditation
- 11 Continued Accreditation
- 5 Continued Accreditation with Warning
- 1 Withhold Accreditation
- 6 Progress Reports

Programs and Enrollment
Currently there are 65 independent programs, 23 integrated programs, 13 programs approved for 4/3 combined Surgery/Thoracic Surgery programs (Allegheny-General, Brigham, Duke, Indiana, Mayo, NYU, Maryland, Rochester, Virginia, Washington University, Mass General, University of Washington, UT-Southwestern), and 11 Congenital Cardiac Programs. As of December 12, 2013, of the 65 traditional CT training programs, 43 are 2-year programs and 22 are 3-year programs, with approval for 117 PGY6, 118 PGY7, and 40 PGY8 positions. The 23 integrated programs are approved for 31 residents per year in PGY1-4 and 33 residents per year in PGY 5-6. As of this writing, enrollment data for the 2013-2014 academic year had not yet been finalized.

Focus on Integrated Program Format
Currently accredited and future accredited programs: 25
Accreditation Status:
- Initial Accreditation-16
- Continued Accreditation-9
Aggregate approved Complement for current and future approved programs: 31-31-31-31-31, Total 190
Aggregate filled positions for current and future approved programs: 27-22-16-10-9-4, Total 88
Citation Data for current and future approved programs
- Total Citations since July 1, 2006: 27
- Top areas of Citation since July 1, 2006: Curricular Development, Progressive Resident Responsibility, Procedural Experience

The next meeting of the Thoracic RRC will be held January 10-11, 2014, with an agenda closing date of November 1, 2013.