

**Report to the Thoracic Surgery Directors Association
Activities of the Thoracic Surgery Review Committee (RC)**

Walter H. Merrill, MD, Chair

The Thoracic Surgery Review Committee (RC) met January 9-10, 2015 in Coronado, CA. The meeting was led by Walter Merrill (Chair), and attended by Carl Backer (Vice-Chair), Bob Higgins, Tommy D'Amico, HelenMari Merritt (resident member), Ara Vaporciyan, Jennifer Lawton, Bill Baumgartner (ex-officio for the ABTS), Elizabeth Stephens (incoming resident member), John Potts (Senior Vice-President Surgical Accreditation), Donna Lamb (Executive Director), Cathy Ruiz (Associate Executive Director), and Olivia Orndorff (Accreditation Administrator).

Committee Business

The meeting was called to order on Friday January 9, 2015 at 8:00am. Donna Lamb was welcomed as the new Executive Director of the Thoracic Surgery RC and the Review Committee members introduced themselves with a brief summary of their role in Thoracic Surgery graduate medication education. Elizabeth Stephens was welcomed as the incoming resident member. Dr. Stephens' term will be July 1, 2015 through June 30 2017. It was noted that this is Dr. Stephens' observational meeting and she will not participate in program review discussion or vote. The Committee noted that this was Dr. Merrill's last RC meeting.

The Committee discussed the ACGME policy on conflict and duality of interest and was asked to update their declared conflicts for ACGME staff. The Committee approved the minutes, without revision, from the July 2014 RRC meeting.

This was the first Thoracic Surgery RC meeting in the Next Accreditation System (NAS), utilizing the ACGME annual review of program data. Program reviews were based on high and low importance data indicators and thresholds decided by the Committee at previous RC meetings. Pre-meeting screening of program data resulted in the following program review agendas: 31 programs were placed on the consent agenda, 24 programs were placed on the consent agenda with Areas for Improvement noted, and 39 programs were reviewed by the Committee at this meeting.

Program review was completed and the following accreditation decisions were issued by the Committee:

- Initial Accreditation – 4 programs
- Continued Accreditation – 23 programs
- Continued Accreditation without Outcomes -4 programs
- Continued Accreditation with Warning – 5 programs
- Clarifying Information requested – 1 program
- Full Site visit requested – 1 program
- Focused Site Visit requested – 1 program

The following reports were presented to the Committee:

- Council of Review Committee Chairs (CRCC), September 28-29, 2014 meeting – Walter Merrill
- Council of Review Committee Residents (CRC), September 2014 meeting – Helenmari Merritt
- American Board of Thoracic Surgery (ABTS) – William Baumgartner

- Dr. Baumgartner announced that Dr. David A. Fullerton will succeed him as Executive Director of the ABTS and requested that Dr. Fullerton be invited to attend the July 2015 Thoracic Surgery RC meeting in Chicago.

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The Committee was presented the RC Executive Committee's decisions for interim requests for the period July – December, 2014.

The Committee reviewed the ACGME 2014 Resident and Faculty Survey Aggregated Specialty Data for independent, integrated and congenital cardiac programs.

The Committee discussed its previous decision not to invite a public member to sit on the Committee. Pros and cons of this position were considered and the Committee may revisit its decision prior to the ACGME required two-year timeframe for reconsideration.

Dr. Merritt presented a brief summary update on the ACGME case log system and the work yet to be monitored to assure its success. The Committee thanked Dr. Merritt for her enormous contribution to Thoracic Surgery resident education particularly with the case log implementation into the ACGME system.

Dr. Stephens was invited to speak. Dr. Stephens thanked the Committee for the invitation to observe this meeting and found the experience to be extremely valuable.

The Committee reviewed the remaining 2015 and future 2016 meeting dates:

- July 17-18, 2015 – Chicago, IL
- January 8-9, 2016 – location TBD
- May 20-21, 2016 – location TBD