

# POSTGRAD ACCREDITATION 2020



## MESSAGE FROM THE PGME ASSOCIATE DEAN

Well, it seems that most planning we do these days is at best a well-informed best guess about what will and won't be possible at some specific point in time in the future. The same is true for accreditation. This edition of the PG Accreditation Newsletter includes some important updates related to timelines and revised activities leading up to our planned site visit in November. Our province has extended the emergency order to mid-June due to the pandemic and the truth is that short of indefinite postponement, anything we decide on now related to a traditional model of on-site accreditation will be subject to change. Suffice to say we have been working closely with the Colleges to determine a prudent course forward without committing ourselves to any one course of action that will require a lot of redundant work or back pedaling should deferral be needed. Our commitment to the Colleges, our PDs, and everyone else in our broad community was to keep pressing forward with accreditation preparation centrally, while respecting your needs to focus on other priorities right now. We have thus paused any in-depth preparation that would be sensitive to a deferral.

ISSUE 5 - June 2020

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I am actually somewhat excited to see how this plays out. While our PGME team remains busy populating the Accreditation Management System on your behalf, myself, Laura Leigh Murgaski and Linda Probyn have been working with the Colleges on a number of contingency plans. We are discussing the probability of a 'normal' onsite visit, and in the context of ongoing uncertainty about what academic life will be like in 6 months and the likelihood that it could actually change quickly at any time between now and then. We have contemplated a number of interesting options. What part of the visit could be done virtually: Some? All? None? We have the opportunity to test-drive some ideas.

One thing we will watch very carefully is the impact of accreditation on the clinical burden and operational disruption we all face and vice versa. Thankfully, we made the early decision to upload documents centrally and this work has coincided with the peak activity (so far) of pandemic response. This has allowed our PGME team to remain busy and hopefully provide our programs and residents a bit of a respite in the process to attend to more pressing needs. We have been assured that regardless of any deferral, we will not need to re-do our documentation! So, we will continue that work for the next couple of months and allow the passage of time to enable us to plan for the next phases. The following segments of the newsletter will update you on the current thoughts around some of these issues. For certain, we do not want to compromise the integrity of the accreditation process, and I want to receive accurate and helpful feedback on our programs and PGME operations. I look forward to helping navigate this very interesting time along with you all.

**Glen Bandiera**, MD, FRCPC, MEd  
Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education

Questions? Contact me: [adpgme@utoronto.ca](mailto:adpgme@utoronto.ca) or our Accreditation team: [pgmecordinator@utoronto.ca](mailto:pgmecordinator@utoronto.ca)



## NEWS AND UPDATES

We are still working towards the scheduled on-site survey on November 22-27, 2020. We have asked the Colleges to confirm by June 30, 2020 whether the review will go ahead as scheduled or be postponed until a later date. However, we are currently focusing our preparations on activities that will be applicable whether we go ahead in November (using alternative formats) or the review is deferred.

### Pre-Survey Visit

Assuming that the on-site survey takes place as planned in November, the following pre-survey visit meeting dates have been scheduled. These meetings will be held virtually and recorded for those that are unable to attend. Alternative dates for Resident meetings and Department/Division Chair meetings will be considered in the Fall.

#### **Royal College Programs - Friday, July 24, 2020**

Royal College Program Administrators' Meeting: 9:45 am to 10:45 am

AFC Program Directors' & Administrators' Meeting: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Break: 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

Royal College Program Directors' Meeting: 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

#### **Family Medicine Programs - Tuesday, August 11, 2020**

Meeting with FM Program Stakeholders: 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Break: 10:00 am - 10:15 am

Meeting with FM Program and Site Administrators': 10:15 am - 11:15 am

**Resident Meeting: September 2020** *(Date to be confirmed)*

**Department/Division Chairs Meeting: September 2020** *(Date to be confirmed)*

*Thank you for your hard work and patience as we work through possible alternatives and accommodate special circumstances as needed. More details to follow soon.*

### Finishing Your Accreditation Questionnaire (AQ)

Thank you for submitting first and second drafts of your AQs and attachments! The accreditation team continues to review everyone's documents and has started uploading information into the online Accreditation Management System (AMS).

Regardless of whether the on-site survey takes place in November (in-person or through other means) or is postponed, completing the AQs for your programs is an essential part of the accreditation process. We appreciate your continued efforts towards completing and submitting your documentation.

Once the final edits are made, the documents will be reviewed and signed off by the Associate Dean, PGME, the programs and departments. Each program will be given access to review the final information in the online AMS.

## Preparing for the On-Site Visit

Thanks to all for continuing on with your preparations. The Colleges are receptive to creative ways to accomplish accreditation should there be, as we expect, remaining restrictions on group gatherings in place at that time of the scheduled visit in November 2020. We will do what makes sense for U of T, while being maximally flexible and respectful of the needs of the Colleges to carry out a high calibre accreditation process.

Once we have received confirmation of the timing and the format of the visit, we will schedule PGME workshops on how to prepare for the on-site survey. In the meantime, all accreditation updates will be shared with relevant stakeholders in a timely manner.

Please continue to visit the COVID-19 section of the PostMD webpage for the latest news and updates <https://pg.postmd.utoronto.ca/the-latest-on-covid-19/>.

## QUESTIONS?

For all accreditation related matters and questions, please email : [pgmecoordinator@utoronto.ca](mailto:pgmecoordinator@utoronto.ca)

## RESOURCES

[Accreditation Website](#)

[Accreditation Standards](#)