

AC-PE PULSE

Summer 2009

The Newsletter of the Accreditation Committee-Perfusion Education
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Message from the Chair, William Horgan

As most of you know I requested that the President of AmSECT not reappoint me to the AC-PE. I will rotate off the Committee on June 30, 2010. It has been suggested that I use this space to give an overview of Perfusion education accreditation since I was first appointed to the Committee. I said I would need to start with; a long, long time ago in the far away land of Illinois, the great fathers of the AMA Kingdom accepted Perfusion into their court; and all was well because it cost nothing to be a member of the court. Perfusion would be known by the court as the Joint Review Committee for Perfusion Education (JRC-PE).

Enough of the silliness! All of us should thank the AMA for recognizing Perfusion as a profession. We also must thank those members of the AmSECT committee that worked with the AMA to get us to where we are today. We were in the AMA offices for several years at no cost to the Committee or its Sponsors. The AMA notified us that we needed to become incorporated and move out of their offices. We did, but there was still no cost to the Committee or Sponsors for services to the Committee, maintaining all of our records or having an AMA staff member assigned to our Committee. The next change came when our staff manager came to us with rumors that the AMA was thinking about getting out of Allied Health Accreditation. It was his recommendation that we change our name so the Committee's name would be better understood. The Committee changed its name to the Accreditation Committee – Perfusion Education, a Joint Review Committee, (AC-PE). Today, we no longer use the "Joint Review Committee" as part of our name.

At a time like this I find it is less important to talk about the history of the Committee and more important to talk about all of those people that have helped today's Perfusion graduates be so much better than the grads of yesterday. I will not name names because I don't know all of them. But I thank everyone that has served on the Committee, the sponsoring organizations, all of those sponsoring institutions and their program directors and didactic and clinical faculty, for being willing to be accountable to third party evaluation.

This Committee has seen both the growth and decline of Perfusion education programs over the years and sadly today we are in another decline. It is not the job of this Committee or of any Accreditation agency to promote or market education. As a representative of AmSECT to the Committee I believe it is my duty to report the decline and request all of our Sponsors to come together and work together to promote and market our profession. I have asked the AmSECT Board to look into hosting a meeting of our Sponsor organizations and others to start working to turn this decline around.

I was first appointed to the Committee by the ABCP Board and served the Committee as a member until I rotated off the Board. I was then appointed to the Committee by many AmSECT Presidents and Boards. It is always an honor when your peers trust you enough to appoint you to represent both the profession and them. Lastly, it has been an honor for me to serve the Committee all these years and know I am leaving the Committee in good hands.

The AC-PE Threshold for Retention has Changed!

The outcomes threshold for retention will be decreased from 70% to 50% beginning with 2009 graduates. This will allow programs more flexibility in evaluating and potentially dismissing students, with less chance of being penalized for not meeting the AC-PE's retention threshold. This change will be reflected in future annual reports.

Standards and Guidelines Revision

The AC-PE continues work on review and revision of the Standards and Guidelines. A first draft has been developed and is currently under review by AC-PE sponsors. The AC-PE will continue to work with its sponsors and the CAAHEP Standards Committee until a final draft is complete. At that time, the draft will be distributed to the communities of interest and the public for comment. Look for further information in the coming year.

Graduate and Employer Survey Revision

Graduate and Employer surveys are in the process of review. Minor revisions have been made and final revisions will be approved in October/November 2009. Please contact the AC-PE office if you have any input on the revision of these tools.

ABCP Exam Results Reporting

Over the past several years, the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) has accommodated programs and improved its results reporting to programs. In an effort to go even further and allow programs to identify test-takers by name, it was suggested at the most recent AC-PE meeting that programs require applicants/students to sign a waiver allowing disclosure of individual certification exam scores to the program, as part of admission requirements. Another suggestion was to outline the disclosure requirement in the student handbook. Both of these options would make it clear to students that certification exam results will be shared with the program and used to improve the program. These options would also avoid putting graduates in a situation of duress, which may be caused by asking them for disclosure at the time they are sitting for the exam(s). Programs are encouraged to implement this practice into admissions.

ABCP Exam Questions

Program directors and/or their students are encouraged to submit test questions to the ABCP to help build a larger question pool for examinations. This would benefit both the ABCP and programs, as they could have a direct affect on certification exam content. Information for submitting test questions can be found on the ABCP's website at www.abcp.org by clicking "Submit an exam question."

AC-PE Certification Exam Pass Rate Threshold

The national pass rate for the ABCP certification exams has been a hot topic for some time now. The AC-PE has discussed its current 70% pass rate threshold for certification exams. Options for changing the threshold, including revolving the threshold around the national pass rate, were also discussed. The AC-PE will consult with a statistician and will further discuss possible changes to the threshold at its 2010 annual meeting.

Program Outcomes Statistics

Comprehensive program outcomes statistics are now available on the AC-PE website at www.ac-pe.org under "Program Outcomes Statistics." The data includes aggregate retention, job placement, graduate satisfaction, and employer satisfaction results. Statistics are updated annually in May.

