

Dear Colorectal Residents and Program Directors:

COVID-19 has certainly created challenges for our health care systems which we recognize will create unprecedented challenges for our programs and trainees as well. With the guidelines published by the American College of Surgeons last week and decisions by individual health systems, many institutions are limiting elective procedures and surgery. We understand the effect this may have on you and your educational programs.

The situation continues to evolve daily. Today, we don't completely understand the broad implications of current limitations, mandates that may be enforced, or how long this will last. Unfortunately, we don't have all of the answers to your questions. What we commit to you is that we will keep open lines of communication, be thoughtful as well as fair and as the ABCRS and RRC deliberate and make decisions surrounding training, case requirements, and certification requirements that you will be informed in a timely manner.

Representation of current and former program directors on the ABCRS and RRC is robust. Be assured they will be strong representatives for your concerns. We encourage you to reach out to the Program Director Association leadership, members of the ABCRS or RRC or any of us to share your concerns.

We appreciate your understanding in these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Tracy Hull, MD
President, ASCRS; RRC Member

Najjia Mahmoud, MD
President, ABCRS

Gerry Isenberg, MD
Chair, RRC

Glenn Ault, MD, MEd
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