

April 7, 2020

Dear Colorectal Residents and Program Directors:

COVID-19 has clearly created challenges for our health care systems and in turn has created unprecedented challenges for our programs and trainees as well. Given the activity of the last few weeks, and as we promised, we wanted to communicate again directly with you regarding updates in regards to training and certification.

During the last week of March, John Potts, the Senior Vice-President for Surgical Accreditation of the ACGME sent out a letter to all program directors. We are attaching an April 2, 2020 updated version along with FAQ's. In this letter, it states that case log minima will not be waived by the RRC but case logs will be judiciously considered in light of the impact of the pandemic on that program. Furthermore, it is ...” up to the program director with input from the CCC to assess procedural competence of an individual trainee as one part of the determination of whether that individual is prepared to enter autonomous practice.” We strongly encourage you to read his letter again and to document program successes in systems-based care as part of your annual ADS update.

In regards to certification by the ABCRS, all application deadlines remain in place. The board utilizes a number of criteria to admit a candidate for the written examination. The program director attestation and case logs will be reviewed with consideration given to the issues we are facing. The oral examination in September remains on schedule. The board will continue to evaluate the situation and communicate any changes to you.

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, MSED
Vice-Chair, RRC; President-Elect, ABCRS

Robert Cleary, MD
President, APDCRS; RRC Member

Bruce G. Wolff, MD
Executive Director, ABCRS