



# ALLIANCE

for ACADEMIC INTERNAL MEDICINE

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Even Better Together

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Dear Dr. Onken:

On behalf of the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM), thank you for requesting feedback regarding transitioning the pilot program for combined training in Gastroenterology and Transplant Hepatology into an additional standard pathway that would provide eligibility for dual American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) certification in those areas. The Alliance's response:

- (1) *Do you support the approval of the pilot program as an added pathway to Gastroenterology and Transplant Hepatology Certification? Please elaborate on your reasons why or why not. Please note that the traditional pathway would remain unaltered.*

Yes, ABIM should approve the pilot program as an added pathway to Gastroenterology and Transplant Hepatology Certification. Recommendations based on AAIM's experience:

- a. The interest of the fellow is transplant hepatology (clinical)—not research based/has no to minimal intent on incorporating a significant research component into his/her future career. The shortened time will not allow training programs to produce well-rounded training for research and scholarship.
- b. The fellow should be selected to enter the pathway between the six month and 12-month time-period in the first year of fellowship. In this way, the clinical competency committee (CCC) can assess the fellow's skill set, motivation, capacity to learn, and ensure that the individual is on track to meet the milestones (both patient care and endoscopic) before the end of the three-year fellowship.
- c. The fellowship program already has an ACGME accredited transplant hepatology fellowship training program and an ACGME accredited gastroenterology fellowship training program.
- d. The curriculum expectation for the two years of GI in the 2+1 is clear (i.e., total minimum of 18 clinical months are required for GI certification, etc.); as the one year is a full 12 months of transplant hepatology.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (703) 341-4540 or [AAIM@im.org](mailto:AAIM@im.org).

Sincerely,

D. Craig Brater, MD  
President and CEO  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine

