2018 AAIM Research Pathways Directors Workshop

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SVP Academic and Medical Affairs
ABIM’s mission...
To enhance the quality of health care by certifying internists and subspecialists who demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes essential for excellent patient care.

We are...

Of the profession, for the public.
Disclosures: Furman S McDonald, MD, MPH

- Senior Vice President for Academic and Medical Affairs at the ABIM
- Department of Academic Affairs overseeing initial certification
- Department of Medical Specialties coordinating Council and Specialty Boards
- Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine & Science
- Continuity Clinic supervision, J. Edwin Wood Clinic, Pennsylvania Hospital
- Residency Review Committee for Internal Medicine, ex officio
- To protect the integrity of certification, ABIM enforces strict confidentiality and ownership of exam content.
- As a member of the ABIM staff, I agree to keep exam information confidential.
- As is true for any ABIM candidate who has taken an exam for certification, I have signed the Pledge of Honesty in which I have agreed to keep ABIM exam content confidential.
- *No exam questions will be disclosed in my presentation.*
Topics

- ABIM and GME
- (New) ABIM Governance and Training
- Research Pathway History
- Trainee / Certification Data
- Two Examples of Co-Creation
- The Future
ABIM, ACGME, and Training Programs

ABIM certified PD Attestation of time, competence, procedures, initial certification eligibility

Define the Discipline/Content of training (Time + Competency + Procedures)

Training Programs

ABIM Certifies Individuals

ACGME Accredits Programs

Reporting training program data for accreditation

Program Requirements
Secure Exam
Discipline Specific MOC
Society Relations
Training

Specialty Board
ABIM Subspecialties

- Internal Medicine
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Gastroenterology
- Hematology
- Sleep Medicine
- Pulmonary Disease
- Medical Oncology
- Critical Care Medicine
- Nephrology
- Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism
- Infectious Disease
- Rheumatology
- Adolescent Medicine
- Sports Medicine
- Allergy & Immunology
- Geriatric Medicine
- Hospice & Palliative Medicine
History: ABIM Research Pathway

• 1984 “Clinical Investigator Pathway” introduced

• 1996 changed to Research Pathway

• Designed for general internists & subspecialists

• Certification via a research pathway requires:
  24 months internal medicine training
  + 36 months research training
  + required specialty clinical training

• Recommended for physicians pursuing a career in basic science or clinical research
CRITERIA FOR DEFINING RESEARCH QUALITY

For the Trainee

Assessment of the trainee’s research progress can be facilitated by a system based on defined levels of achievement. A three-year, 80-percent time commitment is the minimum training for basic and/or clinical research. Within that framework, suggested criteria upon which to evaluate research performance are listed as follows:

1. Core elements of research:
   - Project/study design
   - Development of protocol
   - Proficiency in research methodology
   - Conceptual and statistical analysis
   - Principles of authorship and manuscript preparation
   - Scientific integrity
   - Use of research competency committee to monitor/confirm performance

2. Active participation in regularly scheduled research seminars, journal clubs, laboratory meetings and/or formal course work

3. Acquisition of a graduate degree (if not already acquired)

4. Oral or poster presentations at regional, national or international scientific meetings

5. Publications, especially those in peer-reviewed journals

6. Honors and awards for research quality, such as best paper or Young Investigator Award

7. Awards in competitive fellowships (AHA, NIH, HHMI, NRSA, CIDA) and grants as principal...
How to identify a Research Pathway participant to ABIM?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Information</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Academic Year</strong></td>
<td>2014 - 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Training Level for Internal Medicine</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date Training Began:</strong></td>
<td>7 1 201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date Training Ended:</strong></td>
<td>6 30 201</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The academic year being evaluated is at the final level of training required for ABIM Certification in Internal Medicine.

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Is Trainee in a combined program?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Will Trainee have completed training at the current level by 8/31?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Is Trainee in Research Pathway?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
Number of **New Trainees by Year**

![Bar chart showing the number of new trainees by year from 1984 to 2018. The chart indicates fluctuations in the number of trainees with peaks in 2009, 2010, and 2014, and a notable dip in 2018.]
IM Certification by Year via RP
Research Pathway by Specialty 2007-2017 (894 total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty Area</th>
<th># Physicians Certified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hem/Onc</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardio</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GI</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endo</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulm/CCM</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onc</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEP</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheum</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICard</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hem</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neph</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHFTC</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T Hep</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geri</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCM</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheum/AI</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulm</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACHD</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adol</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospice</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research Pathway Key Messages

- Training slots do not have to be ACGME-accredited during research years, but must still take place under the auspices of an ACGME-accredited program.

- Supervision:
  - IM PD during residency training
  - SS PD during fellowship training
  - Research mentor oversees research, but one of the PD’s must still track the training.

- Research time need not be sequential nor continuous, but must total 36 months.

- 80% mentored research commitment must be maintained, with a continuity clinic “consistent with ACGME requirements” (new).

- Prior, relevant research may be considered towards crediting a year of training (usually pre-GME PhD in the same field of investigation).
Performance of Physicians Trained Through the Research Pathway in Internal Medicine
Rebecca S. Lipner, PhD, Carola Lelieveld, and Eric S. Holmboe, MD

Acad Med. 2012;87:1594-1599. First published online September 26, 2012
doi: 10.1097/ACM.0b013e31826daa57

Abstract

Purpose
Educators in internal medicine are concerned that reducing clinical training from three years to two could negatively affect physicians’ ability to provide good patient care. Physician–scientists already follow a short-track research pathway that shortens clinical training to two years. The authors examine whether this shortened training affects ability.

Method
The authors use a national sample of 101,031 physicians who took their first internal medicine certification examination between 1993 and 2008 and trained in either a traditional or research pathway. They collected data, including demographics, exam information, and maintenance of certification (MOC) return rates. They used regression models to assess the relationship between training pathway and MOC exam scores and eventual certification status, adjusting for physician characteristics.

Results
In this study, research pathway training did not adversely impact internal medicine certification status. Although the scores of physicians who followed the research pathway were slightly lower, the effect size was small. In a subset of research pathway physicians, 63% remained in academic medicine and 37% continued to spend a substantial portion of time in medical research 10 years later.

Conclusions
Different training pathways can lead to similar achievements in clinical judgment. The educational model, competency-based rather than time-dependent, that works for research pathway physicians could be extended to other talented trainees who would benefit by customizing training to meet career goals.

Robert F. Todd III, MD, PhD, Robert A. Salata, MD, Mary E. Klotman, MD, Myron L. Weisfeldt, MD, Joel T. Katz, MD, Sherry X. Xian, PhD, Darren P. Hearn, MEng, and Rebecca S. Lipner, PhD

Abstract

Purpose
In 1995, the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) formalized an integrated residency curriculum including both clinical and research training (the Research Pathway), designed to develop careers of physician-scientists. Individuals who completed Pathway training between 1995 and 2007 were surveyed to determine the extent to which graduates established research-oriented careers of 1995 and 2007. Survey questions addressed source and type of funding, research productivity, and job title/content. Descriptive and inferential analyses were performed.

Results
Forty-seven percent of solicited Pathway graduates participated in the survey. Ninety-seven percent of the respondents completed Pathway training. Ninety-one reported extramural research funding, with 81.4% receiving research support from federal sources. Among the variables positively correlated with the highest level of research engagement were previous graduate-level research training, any first-author publications arising from the Pathway research experience, and the receipt of extramural career development funding supporting the Pathway research.
Research Pathway Graduates
Involvement in Research (%)
Research Pathway Graduates
Effort Distribution (%)

- Research: 60%
- Patient Care: 30%
- Teaching/Admin: 10%
Setting Research Pathway Standards

- ABIM Specialty Boards, with support of the diplomate communities, may change content of training requirements including for the Research Pathway (E.g. clinical requirements, procedures, total duration)

- Research Pathway won’t fix the future of the physician scientist workforce, but should not discourage it either

- ABIM Governance is open to co-creating with the physician scientist communities of ABIM disciplines to inform future of the Research pathway
Hem/Onc Research Pathway Prior to AY2017

- 7 years required total training time
  - 2 years Clinical IM
  - 1 ½ years Clinical Hem/Onc
  - 3 years Research
  - ½ year additional, clinical or research

- Why the extra ½ year?
Fall 2014 Hematology Specialty Board

- Research Pathway discussed
- Agreed to explore total training time
- In partnership with the community
  - Medical Oncology Specialty Board
  - American Society for Hematology
  - American Society for Clinical Oncology
  - Heme/Onc Research Fellowship Program Directors
  - Heme/Onc Research Fellows
Potential Recommendations

• Maintain 7 year requirement
  • Difficult to fund and fill position for full year
  • Junior faculty position in final year of training

• Shorten requirement to 6 ½ years
  • Does not shorten clinical requirements
  • Difficult to fund and fill position for half a year

• Shorten requirement to 6 years
  • Cannot shorten clinical requirements
  • Reduce research requirements?
Resolution
Heme/Onc Research Pathway

● Fall 2015
  • Joint Resolutions of the Hematology and Medical Oncology Boards
  • Shortened from 7 to 6 ½ years

● Winter 2015
  • ABIM Council Approval
    □ Cross disciplinary
  • Applicable AY2017 to:
    □ Hematology/Oncology
    □ Pulmonology/Critical Care Medicine
    □ Gastroenterology
## Minimum Training Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>IM Clinical</th>
<th>SS Clinical</th>
<th>Research (80%)</th>
<th>Total Training</th>
<th>Specialty/Subspecialty Exam Eligibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IM</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>60 months/5 years</td>
<td>Summer PGY-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent, A&amp;I CCM, Endo, Geri, Hem, Hospice, ID Neph, Med Onc Pulm, Rheum, Sleep, Sports</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>72 months/6 years</td>
<td>Fall PGY-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastro Hem/Onc Pulm/CCM Rheum/A&amp;I</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>18 months</td>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>78 months/6.5 years</td>
<td>Fall PGY-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardio</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>84 months/7 years</td>
<td>Fall PGY-7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NIH StARR Program

- Stimulating Access to Research in Residency
- NHLBI, NCI, and NIAID support via grants
- Up to eleven programs per year

grants.nih.gov
ABMS Certification and StARR

- Grants proposals describe initiatives across specialty residencies.
- Research training integrated into clinical residency training.
- Letters of Support from Certification Boards accompany grant proposals:
  - Assurance that StARR training will be consistent with Board Eligibility.
22 proposals supported by ABIM:

- **Standard Training**
  - 36 months clinical IM
  - Research integrated into the clinical IM training
    - 20% during research training

- **Research Pathway**
  - 24 months clinical IM
  - 36 months Research, some integrated within IM residency
    - 20% clinical during research training
  - 12-24 months clinical subspecialty training
The Future

- ABIM is open to **co-creating** training standards with the physician scientist training community

- What next?

- How can we help?

- How will we know if we have succeeded?
Thank you!

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