



## **AAIM Subspecialty Summit** *Uniform Start Date*

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Chair, AAIM Resident to Fellow Interface Committee  
October 11, 2015



## **Disclosures**

- Chair, AAIM Resident to Fellow Interface Committee



## Goals of session

1. Review the issues surrounding fellowship start date
2. Discuss start dates for non-Internal Medicine subspecialties
3. Determine a path forward for Internal Medicine subspecialties



## Traditional start date has been July 1

- Challenges to maintaining this include:
  - Resident transitions to different locations
  - Length of orientation activities for fellowship
    - EMR training
  - Other specialty fellowships plans to change start dates



## Issues

- CMS
  - Residents may not have two simultaneous contracts
  - ACGME requires benefits from first day of orientation, or acknowledgement to resident
- Lost salary if gap between residency and fellowship
- Lost benefits
- Visa issues (30% of IM fellows are IMGs)
  - J1: ECFMG/Dept. of State require “no training gaps” on DS-2019 forms
  - H1B: allows “nonproductive time” but currently need waiver from Dept. of Labor if training not continuous



## AAIM Survey - January 2014

- Responses (total 429)
  - Residency PDs: 155
  - Fellowship PDs: 251
  - Senior faculty: 35
- Residency PD: Have there been conflicts with transition from residency to fellowship?
  - 20% of PDs reported conflicts for >50% of graduates
- Residency PD: Have residents asked to leave before end of contract?
  - 25% of PDs reported allowing residents to leave program early
- Residency and Fellowship PD: Do you support a delay of fellowship start date of 5-7 days (later than July 1):
  - Residency PDs: 94% in favor
  - Fellowship PDs: 38% in favor



## Current Members of Action Team

- Pediatrics
  - Association of Ped PDs
  - Council of Ped Subspecialties
- Internal Medicine
  - AAIM
- Surgery
  - Association of PDs in Surgery
  - Fellowship Council
- DIOs (AAMC GRA)
- Ob/Gyn
  - Committee on Resident Education in Ob/Gyn
- Organization of PD Associations (OPDA)
- Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
  - Chief Health Care Officer
- Association for Hospital Medical Education
- Alliance for Independent Academic Medical Centers



## Decisions from Specialties: General Surgery

- Fellowship program directors met in spring, 2014:
  - Fellowship start date moved to August 1, **effective 8/1/2016**
- The American Board of Surgery
  - Changed board certification exam to July, starting 2016



## Decisions from Specialties: Pediatrics

- Resident survey 5/14 (n=439)
  - 97%: expected to complete 6/30
  - 69%: planned to move to different location
  - 95%: reported mandatory fellowship orientation session
  - 40%: reported orientation scheduled **before** 6/30
  - 6.4% in favor of 7/1 start date, 38% 7/7, 39% 7/15
- Fellowship PD survey 8/14 (n=495)
  - Before above data shared:
    - 49%: did not think current start date posed a problem
    - 33%: acknowledged orientation scheduled before 6/30
  - **After resident survey data was shared:**
    - **Only 18% favored 7/1**
    - Majority favored delay to 7/7, or later
- **CoPS recommendation (10/14)**
  - **Fellowships will start on 7/7/2017**



## Decisions from Specialties: OB-GYN

- In July, 2015, the CREOG Council voted to support a later universal start date for fellowship training
  - representation from ACOG, ABOG, CUCOG, COFTOG, and other areas of education
- The Council preferred a start date of July 15, but supported an alternative date, such as July 7, to align with other specialties
- Important issues on fellowship surveys
  - insurance coverage
  - service coverage
  - orientation schedules



## Points of Agreement

- Universal start date for fellowship would be optimal
  - DIOs are in agreement, and, by survey at GRA meeting in spring, 2015, believe that it should be later than July 1
- There is concern about salary/benefits gap
  - Somewhat mitigated by Pediatrics surveys, indicating that short gap in training would be acceptable
- There is concern about fellows with visa
  - AAMC is working with Departments of Labor and State, but no official guidance yet



## Change is Impending in Other Specialties

- It appears that fellows on visas will be able to start after July 1 at some point
- When that happens will Internal Medicine align with other specialties?
  - Would a survey of first year fellows be helpful in decision-making?
  - Are there additional issues of concern?



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