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Address correspondence to:

*Jackie Ogburn, Administrative
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American Association of Physicists in
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1631 Prince St
Alexandria VA 22134*

March 24, 2020

Dear Graduate and Residency Program Directors,

We recognize this is an extraordinary time and wanted to communicate with you regarding issues related to CAMPEP accreditation during this COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize the disruption and uncertainty these conditions have caused you, your programs, your trainees, and those hoping to join your programs through admissions or the resident selection process, including the MedPhy Match.

First, we want to express both our confidence in you as directors of CAMPEP-accredited programs and our willingness to offer support as you address challenges over the next few weeks and months. Over the past 25+ years, CAMPEP has developed a robust set of standards, bylaws, and policies that accommodate some degree of flexibility and judgment by programs. It is now, during this unprecedented time, when we look to work together with you to ensure that your trainees receive the best training possible under these difficult circumstances.

We also want to acknowledge that COVID-19 related conditions have impeded CAMPEP review activities and this has raised concerns about accreditation timelines. These issues include programs' ability to complete self-studies and CAMPEP's ability to perform site visits, all in a timely fashion. We are investigating options for each of these situations, including the option to perform a virtual site visit, when possible, as an interim measure. Our goal is to find solutions that ensure that programs are meeting CAMPEP standards while introducing as little delay as possible.

Several specific questions have arisen, and the remainder of this letter will try to address them.

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. For programs that are due for a reaccreditation site visit (Programs at their 10- or 20-year renewal), our program review chairs will be contacting you about pursuing options to accomplish the review. The review might involve setting up an interim virtual site visit, where possible, but we are exploring other options as well.
2. For new program applications requiring an initial site visit, our program review chairs will be contacting you about pursuing different options to accomplish the review. As presented in the previous question, the review might involve setting up an interim virtual site visit where possible, but we are exploring other options as well.

Sponsoring Organizations

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3. For programs that are due for reaccreditation without a site visit (5- or 15-year reaccreditation), we anticipate reviews proceeding as usual. However, if you are having difficulty completing the self-study (e.g., due to campus closure or other COVID-19 restrictions), please contact the appropriate program review chair about accommodation, for example a limited-time extension.
4. Many programs are being required or encouraged to perform instruction through remote means (e.g., through “Zoom meetings”) and many institutions are extending resources in this regard. CAMPEP policies and procedures allow remote instruction provided institutional guidelines for remote instruction are in place (see sections G.01.07 and H.01.06 of our policies and procedures - <http://campep.org/CAMPEPP&Ps.pdf>). Therefore, even if a program did not specifically mention offering courses through online means in their self-study, CAMPEP standards do allow online instruction. Therefore, offering courses through remote instruction would not be considered a violation of any CAMPEP standards. It is expected that the course material and level of instruction will remain unchanged.
5. There has been also been some discussion about the ability to perform laboratory courses during campus closure conditions. Please note that CAMPEP standards do not have specific requirements regarding laboratory courses (or components of courses); therefore the way that laboratory courses (or components of courses) are handled (and any deviations from self-study descriptions) during this period will be left to the judgment of instructors and program directors.
6. Similar concerns have been expressed about the completion of clinical rotations in residency programs. The CAMPEP standards are not specific about how the clinical rotations are accomplished and allow for some flexibility in the performance of clinical rotations. Therefore, how these rotations are handled (and any deviations from self-study descriptions) during this period will be left to the judgment of program directors.
7. Finally, concerns have been expressed about graduate students completing program requirements in a timely manner, and especially MS and PhD theses. The CAMPEP standards are not specific about degree (or even thesis) requirements, completion dates, etc. These are primarily guided by requirements established by the program’s institution. So, again, issues relating to completion of theses and how to handle delays will be left to the judgment of program directors and any guidelines provided by their institutions.

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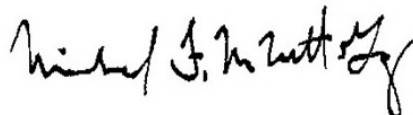
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If this communication does not answer a question that you have, please reach out to either me or the Chair of the appropriate Program Review Committee and we will ensure that it is addressed and that a response is provided as soon as possible.

Thank you again for all of your efforts on behalf of your trainees and your programs, especially during this very difficult time.

Sincerely,



Mike McNitt-Gray, PhD
President, on behalf of the CAMPEP Board of Directors

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