

Policy Statement

Graduate Medical Education

(Policy Number 94-02)

Policy Statement

ASCP supports Graduate Medical Education in Pathology by developing and offering policies, programs and products that address the full range of resident and fellow competencies. ASCP also acknowledges the importance of research in GME, and supports it through its programs and advocacy. Payments for GME should recognize all components of costs, including residents' stipends and benefits, salaries and benefits related to faculty supervision and allocated overhead expenses.

Background and Rationale

ASCP will develop and support policies, programs and products that address the full range of competencies that are important in Graduate Medical Education in pathology.

The ASCP and Graduate Medical Education

Excellence in the practice of pathology and laboratory medicine is dependent upon pathologists who are well trained, and who maintain their competence through ongoing learning. The system of Graduate Medical Education in pathology undertakes the initial and fundamental training of pathologists. In order to promote high standards in the practice of pathology, the ASCP promotes the development and maintenance of high standards in Graduate Medical Education.

Basic Competencies in Graduate Medical Education

Graduate Medical Education in pathology includes the development of competencies of several areas as defined by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education¹. These areas of competency are:

1. *Patient care* that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health;
2. *Medical knowledge* about established and evolving biomedical, clinical, and cognate sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care;
3. *Practice based learning and improvement* that involves the investigation and evaluation of care for their patients, the appraisal and assimilation of scientific evidence, and improvements in patient care;
4. *Interpersonal and communication skills* that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and other health professionals;
5. *Professionalism*, as manifested through a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to patients of diverse backgrounds;
6. *Systems-based practice*, as manifested by actions that demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources in the system to provide optimal health care.

Research and Graduate Medical Education

Competence in practice-based learning includes the ability to critically evaluate clinical studies and utilize evidence-based scientific studies to improve patient care. Clinical and/or basic science research as a part of Graduate Medical Education enhances these abilities. ASCP acknowledges the important role research plays in GME, and supports research conducted by residents and fellows through its programs and its advocacy.

Funding and Graduate Medical Education

Medical schools and teaching facilities depend on multiple sources of funding to conduct the high quality medical education programs that are essential to the maintenance of high quality medical care. Payments for GME should recognize all components of the costs, including residents' stipends and benefits, salaries and benefits related to faculty supervision and allocated overhead expenses. Residency and fellowship programs should be funded for the full length of training required for certification.

Pathology Residents and Fellows as valued members of ASCP

The ASCP strives to be a national resource for the practice of pathology and for pathologists at all phases of their careers. The ASCP will actively encourage participation of residents in fellows in activities of the ASCP, in order to facilitate awareness of the needs and concerns of pathologists in the early years of their professional lives.

References

¹ Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. (2003, February.) Common Program Requirements. Retrieved August 25, 2005 from http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/dutyHours/dh_dutyHoursCommonPR.pdf