

Mid-term Report to the Board of the Canadian Association of General Surgeons

Postgraduate Education Committee

Chaired by: Paola Fata

1. Ongoing Committee Activities for 2010-2011 that have supported the CAGS vision, mission and objectives:

- **Postgraduate Surgical Education**

CanMEDS: Members of the committee continue to share methods of teaching and evaluation of CanMeds Competencies. In 2010, I received permission by the primary authors of the SPICE curriculum (Professional and Communication Curriculum for Surgical Trainees) for distribution to our Canadian Program Directors. As a group we invited Dr. Richard Bell to view the SCORE curriculum, an organized web-based surgical curriculum using the six ACGME competencies, now after negotiation, made available to Canadian residents.

Instruction of the less specifically taught competencies (e.g. manager, health advocacy) will be addressed through implementing ongoing workshops (possibly at CAGS) and standardized curriculum available to all residents across the country.

- **FAST Training**

A resident survey was completed in 2009 by Dr. Luc Dubois, the previous representative from the CAGS resident committee evaluating the use of FAST training across the country. We are further working to standardize goals and objectives for FAST training as well as potentially developing a course in conjunction with the Trauma Association of Canada available for all residents in training.

- **FLS and FES Programs**

Our postgrad education committee supports this initiative as it necessary to meet the new ABS requirements as well. We would like to see the development of FES as a means to improve the endoscopic training of surgery residents across the country.

- **Script Concordance**

An abstract on the results presented by Dr. Sarkis Meterissian has been accepted for presentation at the next CAME meeting. Once this test is validated, it may become an examination tool for national use. Suggestions by the group included adding a limited number of questions to the annual CAGS in-training exam.

- **CAGS Review Course**
The committee supports the Review Course and instituting speakers from across the country as well as prior review of the topics. In view of the concerns expressed by our PD group and the Board of Directors at CAGS, the decision to maintain the current form (i.e. no mock oral exams) was agreed upon by all including its primary organizers, Drs. Escallon and Baillie.
- **EBRS**
This committee has also discussed continued use of the EBRs for the education of our residents.
- **CAGS Resident Committee**
In addition to ensuring resident representation from all programs, the CAGS resident committee is working to populate the “wikisurgery” reference site.

2. Committee Goals for 2011 that support the CAGS vision, mission and objectives

- **Acute Care Surgery**
The committee plans to distribute readings list, educational materials so that an educational curriculum can be established for use nationally.
- **CanMeds competencies**
We are developing a position paper on the CanMeds competencies other than medical expert for use for PDs across the country. We plan to cover teaching methods and assessment techniques.
- **Life After General Surgery Training**
We are looking at designing ways to formalize workshops for residents in their last year of training to help their transition to setting up and managing a practice, considerations which are not specifically addressed within their training.
- **Resident attrition**
The committee is in the process of designing a nationwide survey and database to examine rates of attrition in general surgery residency as well as motivations behind loss to other specialties.

3. Recommendations to the CAGS board that will assist the committee in performing and achieving its goals in the future

Fundraising efforts continue to be of importance to improve recruitment, educational initiatives and retention of our trainees.

Surgical Forum may be the ideal venue should the workshops (teaching of CanMeds competencies, standardized FAST course) be developed by our committee to offer to our residents in the form of postgraduate courses.

4. Long term Goals

The committee's mission is to support Canadian Programs training surgical residents, improving the quality of their education through innovative learning strategies and sharing of educational resources.

Please refer to the minutes of the September 2010 and February 2011 retreat for further information.