

dear residents

2022 ACGME Survey Results

May 8, 2022

Dear Residents,

This week we also received the ACGME survey results. The results reflect a balanced and successful training program especially in terms of diversity and your confidence in being prepared for the next step in your career. There are couple of small items we could work on such as instruction in recognizing signs of fatigue and sleep deprivation. And then there are a couple of bigger items which involve the balance between service to education and the opportunity to engage in structured learning activities. From a quick survey that I sent you, it appears that ICU and cardiology rotations are associated the most with these issues. Over the next few weeks, I would like to set up a few focus groups to better understand these issues. It's also clear that you rate the teaching and didactics on these rotations highly. But it may well be that the loss of morning report and having the space and time to attend noon conference may be driving these survey items. Some rotations like emergency medicine, night float and critical care do make it logistically tough to attend conferences. Perhaps there are innovative ways we can bring the education to you or create more formal learning opportunities within the rotations themselves. It's also possible that the workload and intensity of the work leave you too depleted to learn. This too could be assessed with your input and help.

In speaking with directors of comparable programs (large, urban, ICU and cardiology heavy), they also face similar issues on these rotations. What may be different is that these other programs include more direct patient care efforts by the fellows, additional non-physician professionals, and slightly lower patient volume. It appears that the service/education imbalance is also widespread in other UTSW residency programs. I will also reach out to our own program directors to learn more.

After meeting with you and the leadership of these divisions (cardiology and critical care), I hope to have some solutions to modifying these rotations to improve the service/education balance.

Positive change is only possible when a range of voices are heard, and honest and open discussion occurs. Thank you for completing the ACGME survey and the mini survey I sent you. Thank you for your willingness to meet with me to further understand these stubborn issues. Later this summer I will submit our plan to the ACGME when I complete the annual update.

I am committed to continuously improving the program, to upholding our core values and to fostering excellence while keeping you whole and sane.

Warm regards,

Dino Kazi