Dear Transplant Hepatology Program Director:

The AASLD, with the guidance of the Training and Workforce Committee and the Membership and Mentoring Committee, has been working with the ABIM to create a three-year combined GI/Transplant Hepatology Training Program. Our initial inspiration was to address what we believe are critical manpower needs, but has evolved to include the desire to provide competency-based medical education (CBME) to our trainees.

A pilot program which specifies the competency-based training requirements for a competency-based pilot in gastroenterology-transplant hepatology (TH) training has been approved by ABIM (see attached). This program will assume a trainee has achieved competence in Gastroenterology (which can take place in two or three years) by traditional standards; applying the tools of CBME only to the TH year. Trainees will be able start this program, which is available to all currently ACGME-certified TH centers, as early as the academic year 2012-2013 that is, starting July 1, 2012.

As noted in the guidelines for pilot project applications (see attached), this approval is contingent on ongoing compliance with the terms of the pilot program:

1. Compliance with all of the components of your pilot submission,
2. Participation in scheduled telephone conferences and/or webinars regarding the pilot program,
3. Submission of a yearly progress report, and
4. Compliance with the reporting requirements of the FasTrack Reporting System.

ABIM requires that contact information for all trainees enrolled in this pilot program be submitted to the Board. Each of these candidates will be informed by the Board of their enrollment in the pilot and will receive documentation that they are being granted an exception to existing ABIM training requirements that will allow them to sit for certification in both Gastroenterology and Transplant Hepatology upon successful completion of the pilot.

ABIM believes the information generated through this and other pilots will ensure that the Board develops future certification policies and procedures that advance the competency-based training of all candidates seeking ABIM certification.

Many questions regarding the logistics of such a program remain to be answered. Each program is free to determine the best method to incorporate such a program within the Department of Medicine and Division of Gastroenterology. We will track the progress of our trainees and the effectiveness of our methods of education and evaluation. We encourage
innovation and exchange of ideas as we proceed. Our hope is that in addition to addressing the need to attract, train and retain transplant hepatologists through this program, we will contribute to the development of future training paradigms. Questions – please contact Steve Herrine, Steven.Herrine@Jefferson.edu

Sincerely,

Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao, MD
AASLD President

Bruce Luxon, MD, PhD
Chair, AASLD Training and Workforce Committee

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