

**THE AMERICAN BOARD OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY
AND
THE AMERICAN BOARD OF MEDICAL GENETICS AND GENOMICS**

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR COMBINED
REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY AND INFERTILITY
FELLOWSHIP / MEDICAL GENETICS RESIDENCY**

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February 2017

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PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR COMBINED REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY AND INFERTILITY FELLOWSHIP / MEDICAL GENETICS AND GENOMICS RESIDENCY

A. INTRODUCTION

Combined training in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) and Medical Genetics and Genomics (MGG) should allow the development of physicians who are fully qualified in both disciplines. Physicians completing this training should be competent REI subspecialists and MGG specialists capable of professional activity in either discipline. It is anticipated that many trainees will develop careers focused on genetic diseases of reproductive endocrinology and infertility. The strengths of the two programs should complement each other to provide the optimal educational experience. The goal is to have the trainee become board certified by both the ABOG and ABMGG and participate in maintenance of certification.

The combined program should be considered separate from the REI fellowship program and the MGG residency program. Actions rendered against the combined program will not affect the REI fellowship or MGG residency; however, actions taken against the REI fellowship or MGG residency may affect the combined program.

In addition to these requirements, programs are required to abide by the:

1. *ABOG Program Requirements for Fellowship Graduate Medical Education for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility*
2. *ABOG's Guide to Learning in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility*
3. *ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Medical Genetics*

The Fellowship Department of the ABOG will be the administrator of the combined programs on behalf of the ABOG and ABMGG; therefore, the PIF as well as any other correspondence or questions should be emailed to fellowship@abog.org or mailed to the ABOG Fellowship Department. The ABOG Fellowship Department will share the submitted information with the ABMGG. All correspondence should be addressed to the ABOG Executive Director and the ABMGG Executive Director.

B. APPROVAL

1. *New Program Application*

To establish a combined program, a Program Information Form (PIF) must be completed and submitted. There is no fee required. The current PIF can be obtained from either the ABOG or ABMGG websites.

The PIF will be reviewed separately by the ABOG and ABMGG for approval. Each Board must approve the PIF before the program will be approved.

Once a decision is rendered on the proposed program, a letter will be sent from each Board to the director of the combined program, with copies to select individuals. The cycle length will be linked to the cycle of the standard REI program.

Approval from the ABOG and the ABMGG must be received before any trainees can be accepted into the combined program.

2. *Approved Program Review*

Combined programs will be reviewed for continued approval by the ABOG, on behalf of the ABOG and ABMGG, at the same time the standard REI program is reviewed. At the designated time, the ABOG will schedule a site visit, and a separate PIF must be submitted to the ABOG along with the standard REI PIF.

At the site visit, a representative will interview select REI and MGG faculty, fellows, residents, combined program trainees, and any ancillary faculty as deemed appropriate by the ABOG and ABMGG. The list of interviewees is at the discretion of the ABOG and ABMGG.

After the site visit, the submitted documents and all subsequent materials will be reviewed, and a status and cycle will be granted. The cycle length will be linked to the cycle of the standard REI program.

C. PROGRAM CRITERIA

1. *Sponsoring Institution*

The ACGME-accredited fellowship program in REI and the ACGME-accredited residency program in MGG must be within the same sponsoring institution or the sponsoring institution must be a participant in an integrated multi-institutional program.

The sponsoring institution must provide:

- An administrative home within the department and institution where the director of combined program primarily functions
- Salaries and benefits for trainees that are arranged in such a way as to minimize difficulties/disparities for trainees, regardless of the rotations taken, to protect trainees from the vagaries of different institutional policies

2. *Program Administration*

a. *Program Director*

Combined programs must have a designated director who will be responsible for the administration of the program. The Program Director must be certified in REI, MGG, or both, and must be either the director of the REI fellowship program or the director of the MGG residency program. The Program Director must have a sufficient amount of protected time to devote to the combined program.

b. *Associate Program Director*

Each combined program must have a designated Associate Program Director. The Associate Program Director must be certified in REI, MGG, or both. If the Program Director is certified in REI, the Associate Program Director must be certified in MGG, and conversely, if the Program Director is certified in MGG, the Associate Program Director must be certified in REI. The Associate Program Director must have a sufficient amount of protected time to devote to the combined program.

c. Assistant Director for Educational Oversight

A combined program may, at its discretion, appoint one or more individuals as Assistant Director(s) for Educational Oversight to strengthen, merge, and support trainee education.

d. Program Coordination

The Program Director and Associate Program Director must meet at least quarterly to assure that the training is well coordinated, particularly in those areas where the specialty and subspecialty overlap. In addition, regular meetings of the entire REI and MGG teaching faculties should be scheduled to review the educational objectives of each training program. At least one trainee should be invited to attend these meetings.

e. Responsibilities

The Program Director and Associate Program Director are responsible for assuring all aspects of the program requirements are met. Together they should:

- Submit the initial application
- Provide notification should any significant changes occur in either of the REI fellowship or MGG residency programs
- Provide notification should any significant changes occur in an individual trainee's program (e.g., extension of time, intent to transfer, change in rotation schedule, etc.)
- Complete evaluation forms for all trainees as required by the the ACGME

f. Appointment of New Directors

A program cannot function without a Director and an Associate Program Director. Therefore, when a Program Director or Associate Program Director leaves the position, a suitable replacement must be appointed. ABOG and ABMGG must be notified of the departure, the name of the replacement, and the effective date. The new Program Director or Associate Program Director must be either the current Program Director of the REI fellowship program or the MGG residency program, and approval is automatic.

g. Appointment of an Interim Program Director

If an interim Program Director is appointed there is a limit to the time they may serve in that position. If no permanent Program Director is appointed and approved by ABOG and ABMGG after 12 months, the program will be automatically placed on probation. If no Program Director is appointed and approved at the end of 24 months, the program's approval will be withdrawn.

3. Trainees

a. Qualifications

A trainee entering a combined program must have met the requirements for participation as an REI fellow and a MGG resident*.

** Fellow must meet the ABOG/ABMGG certification requirements as outlined on the ABOG/ABMGG websites*

b. Complement

Combined programs are approved for one trainee every other year, for a maximum number of two trainees in a four-year period. This complement is in addition to the standard REI fellowship program and MGG residency program complements.

4. Training Time

a. Minimum Requirements

The duration of training is a minimum of 48 months, and rotations must be in a minimum of one-month blocks, unless otherwise specified

b. Allocation of Time

Combined programs must ensure that each trainee entering the program is allocated the following:

- 1) Medical Genetics and Genomics – 18 months clinical*
- 2) Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility – 12 months clinical
- 3) Protected Research – 18 months (12 months counts as REI and 6 months counts as MGG)

**OB call may continue throughout the MGG training period but must be approved by the Program Director and Associate Program Director prior to the beginning of training. The amount of call must be no more than that described by ABOG REI guidelines. The call schedule must be adapted so that it does not interfere with clinical genetics daytime responsibilities more than two weekdays per month.*

c. Rotations

- 1) Rotations in areas not directly related to Ob/Gyn and REI must be part of MGG training. These areas of training include, but are not limited to, the genetic disorders of children, adolescents, adults (including obstetrics), cancer, metabolic disease and other basic genetic areas, as delineated in the ACGME's *Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Medical Genetics*.
- 2) The first six months of MGG residency must be consecutive with no more than 10% (one-half day per week) devoted to REI continuity clinics.
- 3) Rotations appropriate for credit for both REI and MGG may occur, but no more than six months of rotations within the MGG residency may be deemed "shared" with the REI fellowship. Shared rotations may not occur until after the first six months of the MGG residency is completed

(See C.4.c.2.) and must have supervision by instructors from both specialties.

- 4) Efforts must be made to integrate the trainee with REI fellows and MGG categorical residents at all levels of training.
- 5) Must be a minimum of two continuous weeks each in clinical biochemical genetics, clinical molecular genetics, and clinical cytogenetics laboratories during MGG, as described in the *ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Medical Genetics*.
- 6) Must fulfill the REI and MGG training requirements for continuity clinics. This may include patients in specialty clinics. Clinics for patients seen in the REI training may continue during MGG training.

d. *Leave Policy*

Leave must be equally distributed between REI and MGG training time.

- 1) REI in accordance to the *ABOG Program Requirements for Fellowship Graduate Medical Education for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility*.
- 2) MGG is in accordance to the *ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Medical Genetics*.

e. *Withdrawal*

Combined programs must inform a trainee who leaves before completing the program of the need to request ABOG/ABMGG approval to receive credit for training experience.

D. EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM

Combined programs must be based on the written curricula of planned educational experiences of both REI and MGG and not simply a listing of rotations between the two. The written curricula must be reviewed by faculty. Avoid unnecessary duplication of educational experiences to provide as many clinical/educational opportunities as possible. All curricular requirements for both REI and MGG must be fulfilled.

1. *Didactic Conferences and Lectures*

Didactic conferences and lectures are mandatory during both REI and MGG rotations. The didactic material and topics are outlined in the *ABOG Program Requirements for Fellowship Graduate Medical Education for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility* and in the *ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Medical Genetics*.

1. Research

Trainees must complete a research project that is pertinent to the fields of REI and MGG. The project must result in a thesis that:

- a. A written manuscript is completed before the completion of the training;
- b. Meets the requirements in the ABOG's *Bulletin for Subspecialty Certification in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility**; and
- c. Has been defended before an appropriate committee within the REI and MGG division/department.

** For all fellows starting in July 2013, the thesis must be published or accepted for publication prior to submission for the REI oral examination.*

E. EVALUATIONS

There must be adequate, ongoing evaluation of the knowledge, skills and performance of trainees as well as a method of documenting procedures and providing written evaluations following each rotation. Formal written evaluations must be conducted according to each specialty/subspecialty's requirements.

1. REI in accordance to the *ABOG Program Requirements for Fellowship Graduate Medical Education* for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility.
2. MGG is in accordance to the *ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Medical Genetics*.