

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

ACCREDITATION REPORT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Action Requested: Receive the accreditation report from the Carver College of Medicine's Nuclear Medicine Technology Program at the University of Iowa.

Executive Summary: The Nuclear Medicine Technology Program in the Carver College of Medicine (1) underwent a self-study that addressed the standards defined by its accrediting body; and (2) had an on-site visit by a peer evaluator. The Program was accredited for the maximum period of seven years allowed by the accrediting body. This report addresses the Board's Strategic Plan objective to "offer high-quality programs through ongoing program improvement for undergraduate, graduate, professional, and non-degree students and special school students" (1.1.).

Background:

- ◇ **Description.** Nuclear medical technology is a medical specialty that uses radioactive tracers for diagnostic, therapeutic, and research purposes. The Nuclear Medicine Technology Program requires three years of preclinical work in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Carver College of Medicine and a minimum of 12 months of professional clinical experience.
- ◇ **Accrediting Agency.** The accrediting body is the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT).
- ◇ **Review Process.** The self-study prepared by the Department of Radiology contained the responses to the appropriate essentials and guidelines required by the accrediting body – sponsorship; resources; students; curriculum; operational policies; program evaluation; and sponsoring institution, program and JRCNMT responsibilities.
- ◇ **On-Site Team Report.** In July 2004, the site team indicated that the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program might not be in full compliance with the Essentials and Guidelines of an Accredited Education Program for the Nuclear Medicine Technologist on two aspects.
- ◇ **Strengths Identified by the On-Site Visiting Team.**
 - ☑ "Interested, conscientious, and knowledgeable program director."
 - ☑ "Knowledgeable and interested faculty, supportive physician faculty at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC)."
 - ☑ "Supportive administration."
 - ☑ "Excellent learning environment with state-of-the-art equipment at UIHC."

◇ Aspects Possibly Not in Full Compliance.

- ☑ “Lack semiannual meetings of the advisory committee.” *Only one of the two meetings must be a formal meeting. The program holds such a meeting yearly. The minutes were provided to the accrediting body. The program has not needed a second formal meeting to resolve issues that arise because the advisory committee membership is small and the members work in close daily proximity.*
- ☑ “Rotation schedule does not include assignments to the VA Medical Center.” *The Center is a standing one-week rotation for each student. Students are made aware of their two-week clinical rotations at the VA through three separate schedules – at the start of the program; in the monthly clinical schedule; and in the program director’s tentative master schedule.*

◇ Consultative Suggestions for Improvement Identified by the On-Site Visiting Team.

- ☑ “Use watermark or seal to make school transcript more official.” *The program now uses a program-specific embossing stamp on all transcripts and other official documents which are now printed on official letterhead.*
- ☑ “Review the involvement and commitment of the faculty at the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VMAC) with respect to student education. Perhaps this should be classified as a minor affiliate and used as an elective rotation for interested students.” *The VMAC has been reclassified as a minor affiliate. The VMAC continues to be a standing (rather than elective) one-week rotation for each student. The students report that the experience is worthwhile and should be continued.*

◇ Accreditation Status.

- ☑ In October 2004, the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology awarded continued accreditation to the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program for the maximum period of seven years.
- ☑ This award was made on the condition that the number of students enrolled in the clinical phase of the program does not exceed 11.
- ☑ The following institutions were recognized as affiliates – University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (Sponsor) and Veterans Administration Medical Center (Minor Clinical Affiliate).

Details about the accreditation report are available in the Board Office.