



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

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American College of Gastroenterology Earns Highest Accreditation from ACCME *Accreditation with Commendation Cites ACG as a "Change Agent"*

Bethesda, MD, January 5, 2010 – The American College of Gastroenterology was recognized for the excellence of its educational programs by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) with "Accreditation with Commendation." This is the highest level of accreditation from ACCME, the organization which provides oversight and accreditation for organizations which grant Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit to physicians.

Accreditation with Commendation extends to six years the typical accreditation period of four years. The College's accreditation term will run through November 29, 2015. In addition to acknowledging the high level educational programming the College provides to physicians at its national scientific meeting and postgraduate courses, as well as regional education programs, ACCME found that ACG demonstrated compliance in all 22 levels of educational and programming criteria monitored by the accreditation body.

"It is the College's collaborative spirit and commitment to physician and patient education that helped to earn this prestigious recognition by ACCME," commented Philip O. Katz, MD, FACP, President of ACG.

In a letter the College received from Murray Kopelow, MD, MS(Comm), FRCPC and Chief Executive of the ACCME it states, "The ACCME congratulates you and commends your organization for not only meeting ACCME accreditation requirements, but for demonstrating that yours is a learning organization and a change agent for the physicians you serve."

"ACG was held to very tough standards by ACCME to qualify for Commendation status, so this is a great distinction and a credit to everyone involved in our educational programs. On average, less than 10 percent of ACCME-accredited providers receive the highest rating of Accreditation with Commendation," commented Jean-Paul Achkar, MD, FACP, Chair of the ACG Educational Affairs Committee. Achkar's committee is responsible for developing and monitoring all aspects of ACG's educational offerings.

Criteria considered by ACCME for enhanced accreditation include: utilization of non-educational strategies to enhance change as an adjunct to educational activities; identification of factors outside of ACG's control that have an impact on patient outcomes; implementation of educational strategies to remove, overcome, or address barriers to physician change; engagement in collaborative or cooperative relations with other stakeholders; participation in an institutional or system framework for quality improvement, as well as influence on the scope and content of activities/educational interventions.

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Focus on Quality Improvement and Engagement with Environment

ACG's ongoing organizational focus on quality initiatives was identified by the ACCME as exemplifying the College's role as an educator to the medical community. ACCME also recognized ACG for "engaging with the environment in support of physician learning and change as part of a system for quality improvement." In recognizing the whole range of educational activities beyond ACG's didactic courses, ACCME's designation of Accreditation with Commendation reflects the College's consistent effort to advance knowledge of digestive disease among gastrointestinal specialists and other physicians, as well as among GI patients and the public. The hallmarks of ACG's activities have always been collaboration within GI and with the broader medical community, as well as a consistent focus on improving patient care and GI practice.

"We are proud that ACCME recognized the breadth and depth of ACG's activities and programs which extend the educational mission of the College for the benefit of our members, their patients and the public," explained Immediate Past President, Eamonn M. M. Quigley, MD, FACG, who guided the re-accreditation process during his tenure. "These educational programs do not all grant CME, but they bring a distinct educational value to a broad audience as they are always informed by the needs of our membership and updated to reflect changes in the science and practice of medicine."

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