

# The National Graduate Survey

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# The National Graduate Survey

- A cooperative effort between
  - The Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFMRD)
  - The American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM)
- Purpose:
  - Provide information to each residency program for its continuous quality improvement
  - Meet ACGME requirements

## Overview

Today's presentation will cover:

- How the survey was developed
- Content of the survey
- Method of collection of data
- Process for dissemination of information to residency programs
- Discussion

## Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Describe the process and content of the development of the national graduate survey
- Develop a plan for utilization of the graduate survey data to improve the education provided in the residency
- Identify national graduate survey data sets potentially available for future use in research and scholarly projects.

## Why a national graduate survey?

- Understand scope of practice of graduates
- Receive information about the adequacy of training, preparedness for practice
- Meet ACGME Family Medicine Requirements:  
*“Program graduates should be surveyed at least every five years, and the results should be used in the annual program evaluation” (V.C.6, Detail Requirement)*

## Past Surveys

- How have you been doing graduate survey?
- What success have you had?
- What challenges have you had?

## Past Surveys

- Variable quality
- Low response rate
- Lack of standardization
- Individual programs vs collaborative efforts
- Lack of ability to compare among programs

## AFMRD and ABFM Together

- Both need similar data (e.g. scope of practice)
- A nationally-administered survey by ABFM would standardize the process
- Tying the survey to Maintenance of Certification should produce a high response rate
- Programs using program-specific data from the Graduate Survey in their Annual Program Evaluation process will fulfill the ACGME requirement
- ABFM agreed to sponsor the graduate survey

## Steering Committee

- Led by AFMRD (Karen Mitchell MD, Chair)
- Representatives from AFMRD, ABFM, family medicine research organizations, ACGME, and a new graduate.
- Identified major stakeholders
- Conducted a competitive Request for Proposal process

## Graduate Survey Stakeholders

In order of priority:

1. Residencies
  - For use in program evaluation and improvement
2. Family medicine organizations
  - FM scope of practice and characteristics
  - Quality of and trends in medical education
3. Research data
  - Educational research
  - Policy analysis

## Other Steering Committee Conclusions

- Recommended three years after graduation
  - Not too short, not too long
- Brief (10-12 minutes) to encourage participation and completion
- Confidential, de-identified
- Eventually every five years if possible

## How the survey was developed

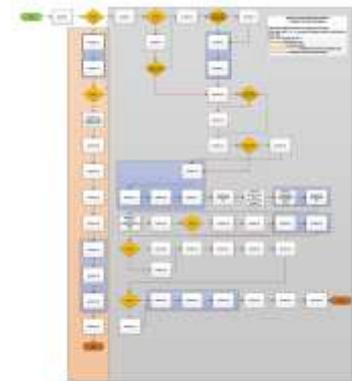
- University of Washington team selected, headed by Dr. Freddie Chen
- Needs assessment
- Literature search, review of previous graduate surveys
- Review of current ABFM questionnaires
- Phone interviews with key stakeholders, recent graduates
- Roundtable discussions with Program Directors

## Survey Content

- Workforce
  - Hours worked, call responsibilities, sites where care is delivered and intensity of care in these settings
- Practice Organization
  - Owner vs. employed, group vs. solo
- Scope of Practice, paired with preparation
- Hospital care and OB
  - If not doing, specific follow up questions about why not

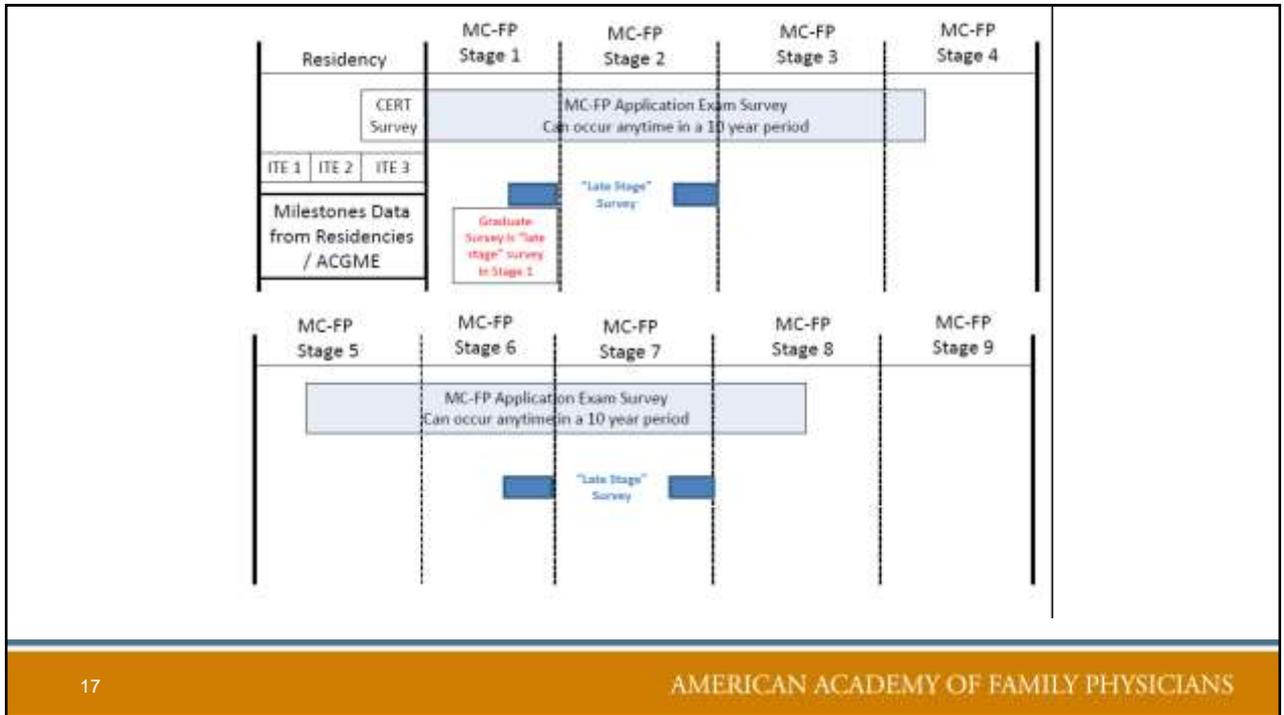
## Delivery

- On-line via ABFM portfolio
- “Skip” logic with question dependencies



## How the survey is being rolled out

- Inaugural survey launched January 7, will close December 31
- ABFM Diplomates who completed residency in 2013 were alerted via email about the survey
- Will receive email reminders in July, then Nov 1 and Dec 1.



## Strengths and Weaknesses

- Strengths
  - National in scope
  - Standardized data will provide actionable comparative data to residencies
- Weaknesses
  - Only ABFM board certified graduates included
  - Lack of gold standard residency file to allow finer comparisons

## Reports to Residencies

- AFMRD Advisory Panel will help ABFM determine how best to provide information to residencies
- Possibilities
  - Static pdf reports similar to board passing rate reports
  - On-line tool to allow finer comparisons

## When can I get the Data?

- Stated secondary outcome was to create a de-identified research file to enable residency education research
- Issues to resolve:
  - Open access or vetted based on applicant and research plan
  - Preserving confidentiality if response rates are low for small programs, or if geographic identifiers are provided

## AFMRD Advisory Panel

- AFMRD has formed an Advisory Panel
- Cross section of AFMRD members
- Will work with ABFM to monitor
  - Performance of the survey
  - Usefulness of data
  - Recommend changes

## To Do Now

- Program Directors should inform their residents and graduates, encourage survey completion
- Program Directors should plan to incorporate results into their Annual Program Evaluation (2017)

## Conclusion

The national Graduate Survey will provide data for residencies to:

1. Utilize the program-specific data gathered from the graduate survey for continuous quality improvement of the education provided in the residency
2. Assess the aggregate national benchmark comparison data in the process of individual program quality improvement.
3. Incorporate national graduate survey data into scholarly/research projects.

## Questions?

## During the break...

- Discuss / think about how you might implement the information you just heard.
- Fill out a session evaluation.

## Discussion

- How will you use the graduate survey results?



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