

Assembly Action Paper #2007A1 12.M entitled “Encourage Membership in a National Professional Organization of Psychiatrists for All Psychiatry Residents in the ACGME’s Residency Review Committee’s (RRC’s) Psychiatry Program Requirements”

After a number of reviews, below is the Committee on Graduate Education’s response to the Assembly Action paper.

1. The committee agrees that psychiatric resident membership in a national psychiatric professional association may be one of many ways to encourage and offer experiences in professionalism. The committee however feels that pressuring residents to join these organizations may be counterproductive and indeed undercut the construct of professionalism as observed by the residents. In this area, the committee does not feel any action should take place.

2. The committee which includes a number of members who have directed psychiatric residency programs feels that a review of the impact of model curricula when written and distributed will find they have at best limited impact. It is interesting to note that when new issues or ideas arise many people plan to write new model curricula but few appear.

Issues of how to teach and how to develop strategies to enable residents to appreciate the complexities of professionalism appear at varied intervals on the AADPRT list serve and their annual meeting. We believe this is an issue that residency training directors are well informed and do not need further input.

3. The question of how to teach the core competencies as identified by the ACGME appear in the RRC requirements for all residency programs. This is core issue at the heart of residency training that residency training directors do not need any outside aid.

Finally we believe that the issue of how we define psychiatric professionalism is an evolving issue which should engage all components of the APA. We would suggest that each component look at this question in terms of their area of interest.

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