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The American Association for Respiratory Care • The American College of Chest Physicians  
The American Society of Anesthesiologists • The American Thoracic Society

## CoARC Update December 2008

### I. Accredited Respiratory Care Programs

	100-level	200-level	Polysomnography
CAAHEP accredited	30	342	10
Letter of Review	2	50	N/A
Approval of Intent	0	2	2
Letter of Intent	8 – supplementary materials pending		

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of CoARC currently has a total of 372 accredited Respiratory Care programs. An additional 52 programs hold a Letter of Review (LoR) which is a CoARC status signifying that a program seeking Initial Accreditation has demonstrated sufficient compliance with the accreditation *Standards* through the Letter of Review Self Study Report (Letter of Review SSR) and other documentation. A LoR authorizes the sponsor to admit its first class of students. A LoR is recognized by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) toward eligibility to the Respiratory Care credentialing examination(s). Thirty of those programs are Certification-level (100-level) and 342 are Registry-level (200-level).

CAAHEP upon the recommendation of CoARC also accredits polysomnography programs as add-ons to accredited Respiratory Care programs. There are currently 10 such accredited Polysomnography programs. There are also a total of 10 Satellite campuses, 3 evening formats, and 1 distance program (all domestic).

### II. Enrollment in and Graduation from Accredited Respiratory Care Programs

Based on analysis of the 2008 Reports of Current Status (the annual reports that were submitted on September 19, 2008):

Total combined enrollments for 2007 for all programs = 8861 (6.7% decrease from 2006)

Total combined graduates for 2007 for all programs = 6762 (5.8% increase from 2006)

### III. Summer Forum Activities

CoARC presented its second annual **CoARC Award for Excellence in Respiratory Therapy Education** to Youngstown State University's Respiratory Care Program at a reception for educators held in conjunction with the 2008 American Association for Respiratory Care Summer Forum in Phoenix, Arizona (July 11-13). Graduates of the Ohio-based program earn a baccalaureate degree in respiratory care. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding programs that go beyond meeting the standards for accreditation. Youngstown State's program was selected from a group of 14 nominees for its noteworthy achievements in distinguished leadership within the profession, distinction in the area of teaching, demonstrated major contributions to the respiratory care profession, and student and faculty community involvement.

For 2009, CoARC will continue to host a Meet the Referee session, where programs can sit down one-on-one with a Committee member to discuss the specifics of their program.

In addition, CoARC will hold a Key Personnel Training workshop to instruct new as well as experienced program directors and directors of clinical education on how to properly prepare annual reports, resource assessments, self studies and other accreditation documents.

#### **IV. Committee Membership**

Dr. Diane Klepper, MD, and Becki Evans, MEd, RRT were recently elected by CoARC at our November meeting as the two new At-Large representatives. The complete roster of Committee members is available at: [www.coarc.com/committee\\_members.htm](http://www.coarc.com/committee_members.htm).

#### **v. Four Board Members to Receive AARC Honors**

Congratulations to Dr. Greg Paulauskis, PhD, RRT, Dr. Will Beachey, PhD, RRT, and Mr. Steve Mikles, EdS, RRT for being selected as 2009 Fellows of the American Association of Respiratory Care (FAARC)! They will be recognized and receive the FAARC distinction at the awards ceremony during the AARC International Congress in December at Anaheim, CA. In addition, congratulations to Kathy Boggs-Rye, EdD, RRT who will be receiving the AARC Education Section's Educator of the Year award at the same ceremony.

#### **VI. Standards Revisions Process**

CoARC reviews its current *Standards* every five years. CoARC will be working with its sponsoring organizations to develop progressive drafts over the next several months. In addition to the input from CoARC sponsors, open hearings will be scheduled on the proposed *Standards* to permit consideration from all applicable communities of interest regarding what should and what should not be included in the *Standards*. Once the final draft is reviewed and approved, it will be sent to CoARC's sponsoring organizations for formal endorsement.

#### **VII. Ad-hoc Subcommittee on Independent Accreditor Status**

At its November Board meeting, CoARC made the decision to proceed with the process of separating from CAAHEP and become a freestanding accreditor for respiratory therapy programs. In the current structure, CoARC is a committee that makes recommendations to CAAHEP as the accreditor. CoARC formed an ad-hoc subcommittee in July to conduct a detailed assessment of its current relationship with CAAHEP, as well as to determine the advantages and disadvantages that such a decision might have on our communities of interest and the profession. The CAAHEP, CoARC's sponsors and the educational programs were notified by letter on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008, along with the National Network of Health Career Programs in Two Year Colleges (NN2) and the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP).

This decision has been made after a thorough review and consideration of the pros and cons of pursuing independent accreditor status. With almost 40 years of operation, first as part of the AMA's Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA), and then under the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) system, the CoARC has gained the maturity and experience to function as a freestanding organization. Timely steps are being taken to assure recognition as the official accrediting agency for respiratory therapy education programs by the sponsors, National Board for Respiratory Care, state licensing boards, and other appropriate entities. We are proposing a target separation date of January 15, 2010.

Sincerely,



Shelley C. Mishoe, PhD, RRT, FAARC  
Chair