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March 19, 2020

Dear Fellowship Director,

The COVID-19 pandemic is currently affecting our healthcare delivery networks in an unprecedented manner. I am sure that many of you have moved to novel staffing patterns to maintain a healthy surgical workforce. In many instances, this involves asking a portion of the workforce designated to work from home.

I think it is important that your trainees, who may be away from the hospital and clinical care, remain engaged and focused on critical care. To that end, it is the recommendation of the Trauma, Surgical Critical Care and Burn board members that your program keep track of their activities. In addition, it more important than ever that the fellows document all of their clinical experience in the ACGME case log system.

Examples of ways in which the trainees can continue to stay engaged include a focus on education, and perhaps provision of remote, or E-ICU type care, either in a formal or informal way. We encourage your trainees to keep a record of their time away from the ICU, documenting any remote clinical service or added educational experience. This will demonstrate that they maintained a focus on surgical critical care, even if they were unable to provide direct bedside care for a period.

We hope that you will take these recommendations to heart. It is our goal to maintain the health of the surgical workforce during these unprecedented times, while not compromising our trainees learning experience.

Most sincerely,



Kimberly A. Davis MD MBA  
SCCPDS President