AHME ACADEMY

GME 2026: FOCUS ON COLLABORATION

Friday, September 18, 2026
Join us for an All-Day Virtual Event
9:45 am ET/8:45 am CT/7:45 am MT/6:45 am PT

9:45	**Welcome and Introduction to AHME**	**Carrie Eckart, MBA** AHME Past President & Academy Chair Assistant Vice President, GME Accreditation HCA Healthcare ~ Tampa FL
10:00	**One GME Enterprise: Aligning Central Office and Program-Level Operations** **Venice VanHuse, MPA** VP, Academic Affairs & GME Northwell Health **Tara Zahtila, DO** Deputy DIO Northwell Health	*At the conclusion of the session, learners should be able to:* • *Define and align roles, workflows, and decision-making authority between the central GME office and program-level administration to reduce ambiguity, streamline operations, and enhance institutional consistency* • *Implement structured communication and collaboration strategies, including communication loops, escalation pathways, standardized templates, and process-mapping tools to improve cross-functional efficiency* • *Evaluate and adapt gold-standard practices, such as centralized onboarding workflows, accreditation readiness checklists, competency-tracking tools, professional development strategies, and policy governance models*
10:45	**The Dynamic Duo – Program Directors and Program Administrators/ Coordinators** **Cassandra Bradby, MD** Assistant Dean for GME Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, ECU Health Medical Center **Ms. Erin Cruz, C-TAGME** GME Specialist ECU Health Medical Center	*At the conclusion of the session, learners should be able to:* • *Clarify the complementary roles of Program Directors (PDs) and Program Coordinators (PCs)* • *Explain how respect and accountability drive effective teamwork and program efficiency* • *Apply structured weekly PD–PC check-ins to track progress and address concerns* • *Identify strategies that promote open communication and psychological safety* • *Create an action plan to strengthen the PD-PC partnership*
11:30	**YOUR CHOICE: Choose a 20-minute "Ask the Experts" session OR take a break!**	• *Room 1: Aligning Central and Program-Level Operations* • *Room 2: Dynamic Duo*
11:50	**AAMC and Thalamus: Building the Future Physician Workforce** **Jason Reminick, MD, MBA, MS** CEO and Founder Thalamus **Richard Peng** Principal Engagement Strategist, Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)	*At the conclusion of the session, learners should be able to:* • *Describe the suite of tools available through AAMC and Thalamus to identify, recruit, and select the future physician workforce* • *Apply data insights from application platforms to support mission-aligned review and selection of GME trainees* • *Discuss ongoing recruitment innovations designed to improve outcomes for applicants, medical school advisors, and programs* • *Prepare for the 2027 recruitment season by effectively leveraging available tools, resources, and best practices*
12:50	**Identifying and Supporting Struggling Medical Learners** **Abdo Asmar, MD, FACP** Program Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program UCF-HCA Florida Healthcare (Greater Orlando/Osceola) Vice Chairman, Graduate Medical Education Department of Internal Medicine Professor of Medicine and Medical Education Academic Assistant Dean – HCA Florida Osceola University of Central Florida, College of Medicine	*At the conclusion of the session, learners should be able to:* • *Identify early warning signs of GME learner difficulty* • *Explain the importance of early identification and intervention to support learners before escalation* • *Gather and triangulate evidence across multiple sources, settings, and observers* • *Outline concrete steps to support the struggling medical learner*

1:50	**YOUR CHOICE: Choose a 20-minute "Ask the Experts" session OR take a break!**	• *Room 1: AAMC ERAS, Thalamus* • *Room 2: Identifying/Supporting Struggling Learner*
2:10	**Immigration Policy Shifts: Intealth Insights for U.S. Medical Education Programs** **Tracy Locklin Wallowicz, MLS** Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Chief Communications Officer Intealth – Advancing the Global Health Workforce	*At the conclusion of this session, learners should be able to:* • *Describe key 2025 visa policy changes and trends that affected graduate medical education (GME) programs and international medical graduates (IMGs)* • *Identify anticipated 2026 visa policy developments and operational considerations, with a focus on planning and risk mitigation for GME* • *Assess the implications of evolving J-1 and H-1B visa policies, including travel, processing, and compliance challenges* • *Apply practical strategies to support recruitment, onboarding, and continuity of training in a dynamic and uncertain policy environment* • *Duration of Status Changes, and their direct impact*
3:00	**AHME Publications** **Door Prizes! AHME Giveaways!** **Carrie Eckart, MBA**	*At the conclusion of this session, learners should be able to:* • *Benefit from access to AHME Printed Resources and maybe even win a prize!*
3:10	**YOUR CHOICE: Choose a 20-minute "Ask the Experts" session OR take a break!**	• *Room 1: Visa Update* • *Room 2: Hot Topics*
3:30	**A Peek Behind the Curtain: A Mock ACGME Review Committee Meeting** **Nikhil Goyal, MBBS** Senior Vice President, Accreditation, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) **Roxana Aleksic, MBA, PMP** Vice President, Accreditation Operations, ACGME **Cindy Riyad, PhD** Executive Director for the Review Committees of Medical Genetics and Genomics, Pathology, and Preventive Medicine, ACGME **Cheryl Gross, MA, CAE** Executive Director for the Review Committees of Anesthesiology, Radiation Oncology, and Transitional Year, ACGME	*At the conclusion of this session, learners should be able to:* • *Gain insight into the process used for reviewing programs in an RC meeting* • *Enumerate the options available when writing AFIs and Citations and making accreditation decisions* • *Describe a simulated program review, including the roles of the RC Chair, committee members and staff members* • *Review a de-identified program, with data and scenarios, and draft their own simulated review, issue citations and AFIs and make an accreditation decision*
4:15	**Bringing It All Together – the Annual Institutional Review** **Lara Colton, MD, MEd, FACP** Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, DIO Houston Methodist Academic Institute **Miriam Bar-On, MD** AVP for GME, DIO Jefferson Health Medical Education	*At the conclusion of this session, learners should be able to:* • *Analyze institutional and program-level data to identify both areas of excellence and areas for improvement in the Annual Institutional Review (AIR)* • *Evaluate complex institutional challenges and formulate strategic solutions that promote continuous improvement and long-term program and institutional success* • *Apply practical strategies, best practices and AI tools, where appropriate, to streamline the AIR process, engage key participants, and maximize the value of the review for continuous institutional improvement* • *Develop actionable recommendations and improvement plans, to be overseen longitudinally by the GMEC*
5:00	**YOUR CHOICE: Choose a 20-minute "Ask the Experts" session OR take a break!**	• *Room 1: A Mock RC Meeting* • *Room 2: The Annual Institutional Review*
5:20	**Thank you to all Participants and Presenters**	**Carrie Eckart, MBA** AHME Past President & Academy Chair Assistant Vice President, GME Accreditation HCA Healthcare ~ Tampa FL

WITH OUR INEXPENSIVE PRICING, ALL OF YOUR STAFF CAN ATTEND!

PER PERSON EARLY RATES ON OR BEFORE 09/03/26

$250 (members)/$350 (non-members)

PER PERSON REGULAR RATES ON OR AFTER 09/04/26

$275 (members)/$375 (non-members)

REGISTER ON-LINE AT WWW.AHME.ORG BY SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

All payment methods (including pay by check) are available when you register on-line.

Cancellation Policy: In the event of cancellation, a refund of the Academy registration fee, less a 25% administration fee, may be obtained only by written request to the AHME Accountant (tricia@ahme.org).