



CoARC YEAR IN REVIEW

COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

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April 15, 2010

Incoming Chair's Report — David L. Bowton, MD, FCCP, FCCM

This is my first Chair's report, and the first chair's report with CoARC as an independent accreditor. Our Standards have been reviewed and accepted by each of our sponsoring organizations: the AARC, ATS, ACCP, and ASA. Further, at our March 2010 meeting, an exhaustive review of our new Policies was completed. With the introduction of new Standards and Policies, there will, no doubt, be considerable concern on the part of Program Directors and Directors of Clinical Education as to how these new Standards and Policies have changed from the old, and what do they need to do to ensure programmatic compliance. To this end, a comparison document has been developed that summarizes some of the key differences and similarities between the new and the old. Importantly, the old Standards had both "standards", which were mandatory, and "guidelines" which were not mandatory contained within them. This was confusing to many, and our new Standards have removed this ambiguity – there are only "Standards", each of which will be enforced. This comparison document is available for review and download on our website.

A key mission of the CoARC is to ensure that respiratory care education programs successfully prepare students for entry into the profession. To accomplish this, the CoARC has relied on the results of program outcome measures, including results of national credentialing examinations. Historically, these credentialing examinations included both the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) examinations. One significant change as we implement our new Standards will be that CoARC will look at the success of program graduates on the CRT exam as the measure of examination-based program outcome. RRT results will no longer be used for this purpose. This change will become effective during CoARC's review of all annual reports that are due on April 15, 2011. The reasons for this change are several, and a more complete discussion of our rationale can be found on our website. Briefly, this reflects changes in the content of the CRT examination as well as the widespread use by most states of the CRT examination for licensure and entry into the profession. The CoARC continues to value the RRT credential and views it as a marker of professional achievement. We will continue to require reporting of the results. From a program effectiveness perspective, the RRT credential is a measure of a program's success in inspiring its graduates to achieve their highest educational and professional aspirations.

The CoARC promised not to increase fees for 2010 – and we did not. Further, CoARC has not raised its fees in several years. However, because of our costs for insurance, legal support, and numerous other expenses, we are compelled to increase fees effective 2011. A new fee schedule will be posted on our website and sent to programs very soon to facilitate budgeting for 2011. We are very cognizant of the difficult financial state of many of our programs and have conscientiously tried to keep our fee increases as low as is possible, yet retain the fiscal health of the CoARC. Thanks to the exemplary work ethic of our CoARC Executive Office staff, and the frugality of volunteer Board, our fees remain lower than most other accreditation agencies and we will continue to endeavor to keep them low in the future.



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Incoming Chair's Report (cont)

This issue of the newsletter provides background on the current Board, introduces new Board members, and gives thanks to our outgoing Board members. Without the diligence and hard work of these volunteers, it would simply not be possible for the CoARC to function effectively. I would like to express my personal thanks to Will Beachey, David Chang, Greg Paulauskis, and Craig Conoscenti for their years of service. We welcome Diane Flatland, our newest Board member.

I would be remiss if I did not highlight the exceptional work done by our CoARC staff: Jana Anderson, Lisa Collard, Bonnie Marrs, and Shelley Christensen under the leadership of our Executive Director, Tom Smalling. This has been an amazingly busy and productive year as we have successfully navigated a path toward becoming an independent accreditor. We could not have even contemplated this without the remarkable support of each of these individuals.

Finally, I would like to especially thank Shelley Mishoe for her exceptional effort as Chair this past year: it set the performance bar very high. I can only hope my tenure will be half as successful.

Outgoing Chair's Report—Shelley C. Mishoe, PhD, RRT, FAARC

For my report, I would like to provide an overview of my time as chair. Much has happened with CoARC during the past two years, the most significant being the initiation of the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care. In these past two years we dealt with many substantial changes such as:

- Dissolving the Health Accreditation Services Corporation (HEASC) and CoARC Services Corporation; ending services to the CoAs for EMS and CVT.
- Hiring new staff and reorganizing the home office operations to improve customer service and support of the work of the Board and Executive Director.
- Initiating monthly teleconference meetings of the executive committee.
- Enhancing board communications including timely preparation and distribution of full committee, executive committee and subcommittee meeting minutes along with monthly updates from either the chair or executive director.
- Improving relationships with AARC and NBRC through Tripartite Meetings, phone discussions and multiple forms of sharing/communicating.
- Decreasing the length of each face-to-face board meeting by one full day.
- Eliminating face-to-face subcommittee meetings, facilitating teleconferencing and more regular meetings to achieve goals, deadlines, accountability, progress and improvement.
- Facilitating decision making using group process, consensus building and parliamentary procedure.
- Conducting a national search for the executive director and hiring Dr. Tom Smalling.
- Improving the CoARC website for appearance, timeliness and accuracy of information.
- Initiating a CoARC reception in conjunction with the Summer Forum, including funding from an outside donor.
- Improving the visibility of CoARC at the AARC International Congress and Summer Forum meetings as well as other international/national meetings.
- Offering additional educational programs for Program Directors and Directors of Clinical Education.
- Approving a Policy and Procedure manual for the office.
- Forming an Ad Hoc Committee for Independent Accreditor to achieve a separation agreement from CAAHEP, policies, procedures, bylaws and standards for the new commission.
- Establishing the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care
- Developing a new strategic plan.

This impressive list of achievements does not capture the amount of time, effort, teamwork and professionalism from: Dr. Tom Smalling, Jana Anderson, Lisa Collard, Bonnie Marrs, Shelley Christensen and the entire Board of Directors! I have thoroughly enjoyed how everyone associated with CoARC has pulled together to work through a variety of operational and strategic issues during a time of unprecedented change.



Together, we hiked a new trail on a rocky terrain. It was not an easy hike. Our hike together took all of us off the clearly marked trails. Sometimes we had fears because the change was fast and furious. The threats were large and ominous. We did not always agree with one another. Through it all, we were able to see our way through using group process, a healthy dose of humor, and a focus on the mission, not ourselves.

In December of 2007, I wondered what I had gotten myself into and regretted that I agreed to be nominated for chair. When the elections occurred, I did not have a grasp of the whole organization and other issues in CoARC. Had I known the full scope of the work involved and challenges ahead, I doubt I would have agreed to it. Suddenly, I found myself as the Chair of both HEASC and CoARC. I was working with an interim executive director, Bill Goding, who was not located in Dallas, with the EMS group, the CVT group and the staff of CoARC in Dallas. During my holiday “break” I was in frequent contact with Jana, Bill, lawyers, accountants and realtors. As chair of both, I found myself as the authorized person to effect the transaction for dissolving HEASC and selling the home office. As Chair of CoARC, I found myself as the authorized authority buying the home office from HEASC. I hope Jana knows how much I appreciate how she stepped up and helped me and CoARC through all the paperwork and details involved for these organizations throughout the years and these past two especially!

In November, we effectively established our commission to make accreditation decisions using fair policies and procedures. As I write this report, I am thankful for this opportunity to learn much and lead such a wonderful group of talented people. I cherish the times we laughed, cried, worried, deliberated, discussed, decided, shared and pulled together. It sounds trite to say it has been a privilege to serve as your chair during these past two years. But, words cannot adequately express the admiration and appreciation I have for the staff, board of directors, site visitors, program directors, clinical directors, medical directors, educators, administrators, respiratory therapists and all who have contributed to the best of their abilities for the mission of CoARC, on behalf of respiratory therapy educational programs!

I extend best wishes to our outgoing Board members, Drs. Will Beachey, David Chang, Craig Conoscenti and Greg Paulauskis. We will miss you! I heartily welcome our new Commissioners: Diane Flatland, Brad Leidich, Dr. Joseph Coyle and Dr. Tom Hill. I hope you will find CoARC as rewarding and fulfilling as I have, although granted it is a lot of work!!!

I especially thank the executive committee and the subcommittee chairs. Dr. David Bowton has been instrumental in the formation of this new commission, since he chaired the ad hoc committee on independent accreditor. Dr. Bowton has my sincerest appreciation and congratulations as Chair of CoARC. I urge the staff and the Board to please give David and Tom your full support, especially when you would do some things differently or you represent the minority opinion. I encourage the programs to continue to provide good suggestions, feedback and ideas to help CoARC thrive in fulfillment of its mission. I look forward to continuing as part of this terrific team in my new role as past chair. THANK YOU!

MEET THE NEW COMMISSIONERS AT THE AARC SUMMER FORUM

CoARC would like to introduce Meet the Commission-formerly known as Meet the Referees. The format has been changed from a scheduled meeting with a particular referee, to a panel-style question and answer session. We welcome you to join the CoARC Commissioners on Thursday, July 15th from 12 PM – 2PM at the AARC Summer Forum at the Marriott Marco Island Resort and Spa in Marco Island, Florida. The purpose of this new format is to respond to questions related to the following:

- Recent changes to CoARC policies, procedures, and documentation involving the referee process;
- What is required for accreditation and what is recommended for improvement of the program; and
- How to communicate appropriately and effectively with the program referee and Executive Office staff.

Specific programmatic questions (e.g., reaccreditation timeline, program action letters, status of recent actions or requests, etc.) should be directed to the Executive Office at any time.

We strongly encourage Program Directors and Directors of Clinical Education to submit questions which will be addressed at the session by one of our Commissioners or Executive Office Staff. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions at the event.

Please pre-submit any questions that you would like to be addressed to Shelley Christensen at shelley@coarc.com. Room location to be announced.

Executive Director's Report – Tom Smalling, PhD, RRT, RPFT, RPSGT, FAARC

“There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction.”

- Winston Churchill



This year marks four decades of providing accreditation services to the respiratory care profession. In this time period, the CoARC has undergone countless changes and improvements. Many of these changes were the result of deliberate adjustments suggested by our board, staff, and our communities of interest, and many others dictated by the evolving world of professional accreditation.

This past year, in particular, has seen a number of new processes and changes to existing processes that were implemented to enhance our accreditation services. I will highlight a few of these significant changes in this report.

First, CoARC has undergone a number of operational improvements, some of which are not easily noticeable to our communities of interest. These operational changes are necessary in order for us to carry out our mission of serving the public by ensuring high quality respiratory care education through accreditation services which provides consumer protection. Our website (coarc.com) has been through a number of revisions. This includes both cosmetic changes as well as updated information, such as links to surveys updated documents, important news and policy updates. We are in the process of a complete redesign of the website. This will include, among other things, the ability for programs to access an annual reporting database and complete online forms. In addition, the website will have easier access to accreditation information specific for educators, students, and the public. We anticipate rolling out the new website by June 2010. I encourage you to visit our website often for the most up-to-date information and policies.

Our Executive Office has added new staff, redistributed responsibilities, and improved our IT infrastructure- actions aimed at streamlining and improving accreditation services. We will continue to evaluate our operations in order to maintain appropriate services aimed at ensuring fair and consistent accreditation decisions.

In addition to our operational improvements, our policy and procedures have been considerably modified. Over the past year, significant changes have been made especially to Section 2 of our Policies, the Initiation of Accreditation. The Initiation of Accreditation is, by design and intent, a lengthy process. CoARC has revamped its needs assessment and disclosure requirements for new programs, the goal of which is to hold institutions more accountable for demonstrating a validated need to begin a new program as well as allowing those in the drawing area to voice their opinions on its potential impact on the surrounding community. Our accreditation process provides programs with a review and analysis that assists the program in finding its own approaches and solutions, and that make a clear distinction between what is required for accreditation and what is recommended for improvement of the institution

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) is to serve the public by ensuring high quality respiratory care education through accreditation services.

VISION STATEMENT

To be a recognized leader in accreditation for the health professions.

THE VALUE OF PROGRAMMATIC ACCREDITATION

Provides consumer protection, advances and enhances the profession, and protects against compromise of educational quality.

CORE VALUES

Professionalism
Service
Collaboration
Accountability

or program. CoARC considers the initiation of accreditation process to be the one of the most significant and critical points in the entire accreditation/reaccreditation cycle as deficiencies and areas of weakness that develop at this point can potentially evolve into more serious accreditation issues later on. It is this deliberative process which we rely on, independent from the program's needs and potential biases, to ensure that consumers are protected and the quality of the educational program established is not compromised.

To help fulfill our mission of promoting quality respiratory care education, CoARC is seeking greater collaboration with organizations such as regional and national accrediting agencies, its sponsoring and representative organizations, and the National Board for Respiratory Care, state respiratory care societies and state licensing boards. For example, we continue to participate at the NBRC Licensure Liaison Meeting in September, because we feel that maintaining an open dialogue with state licensing agencies is important to ensure consumer protection- a key goal of the accreditation process. Another example of this collaborative effort is our recent work with the Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care. In an effort to address the growing number of respiratory programs in their state, the PSRC Board approved a plan to perform a workforce survey throughout the state at least once a year. CoARC has participated in conference calls with educators, licensure officials, and state society representatives in Ohio, North Carolina, and other states in an effort to address issues of common interest.

Furthermore, as part of our transition to a freestanding accreditor, our new accreditation Standards will come into effect as of June 1st of this year. These Standards (available at www.coarc.com) demonstrate CoARC's continued commitment to ensure accountability to the public through standards that require programs to achieve and demonstrate valid outcomes-based measures. These new Standards also demonstrate our firm commitment to ensuring that programs are held accountable to providing quality respiratory care education. Accountability includes a commitment to involve the public in accreditation decision making. CoARC has always recognized and upheld the value of public participation in our processes and, as reinforced by our mission, will continue to do so as a freestanding accreditor. We will continue to foster excellence in respiratory therapy education by holding programs to uniform national standards as part of a private, voluntary, non-governmental accreditation system. We assure due process, avoid conflicts of interest, and view the role of continuous self-evaluation by programs as the most effective means to maintain and improve quality.

As you can see, it is beyond the scope of this report to fully describe all of the changes CoARC has recently undergone in our efforts to fulfill our mission. In closing, I would be remiss if I did not mention that our accomplishments this past year would not have been realized if not for the talent and dedication demonstrated by Jana, Lisa, Bonnie, Shelley, and all our current and past Board members. Each one of them has contributed tirelessly to ensure that, regardless of the change, CoARC remains mission-focused.

CoARC Becomes a Member of ASPA!

On March 28th, CoARC was accepted into membership in the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA). With more than 60 member agencies, ASPA provides a collaborative forum and a collective voice for the community of U.S. agencies that assess the quality of specialized and professional higher education programs and schools. ASPA represents its members on issues of educational quality facing institutions of higher education, governments, students, and the public. For more information on ASPA, visit their website at www.aspa-usa.org.

Update on Independent Accreditor Status

The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) became a freestanding accreditor, separate from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) on November 12, 2009. Beginning November 12th, 2009, the evaluation and accreditation of respiratory care educational programs became the responsibility of the CoARC. Effective November 12th, 2009, programs are subject to accreditation by the CoARC.

The CoARC, in its new configuration, continues to foster excellence in respiratory care education. It continues to hold programs to uniform national standards as part of a private, voluntary, non-governmental accreditation system.

Webinar Training

In early February, CoARC successfully completed a GoToTraining session on the 2010 Standards held exclusively for site visitors. There were 38 attendees on the original webinar date. Post-webinar survey results were very positive. As of the beginning of April, an additional 80 individuals have viewed the webinar since it was posted to our website. More web-based training sessions are planned in the near future on a variety of topics. Future topics and dates/times will be provided on our website and via email.

Notice of Fee Schedule Changes

At our March Board meeting, CoARC approved an increase in our fees for certain accreditation services. These fee changes will be in effect as of January 1, 2011 and will be reflected in our invoices scheduled for distribution in November 2010. Our fees still remain lower than most other accreditation agencies and we will continue to endeavor to keep them as low as possible in the future. A detailed schedule of fee changes is available on our website.

Outgoing Commissioners

Will Beachey, PhD, RRT, FAARC
American Association for Respiratory Care



Member Term(s): 2001—2009

Offices Held: Secretary

Site Visitor Since: 2001

Craig S. Conoscenti, MD, FCCP
American College of Chest Physicians



Member Term(s): 2002—2009

Offices Held:

Site Visitor Since: 2002

David W. Chang, EdD, RRT
American Association for Respiratory Care



Member Term(s): 2002—2009

Offices Held: Chair, Chair-Elect

Site Visitor Since: 2002

Gregory P. Paulauskis, PhD, RRT, FAARC
American Association for Respiratory Care



Member Term(s): 1999—2010

Offices Held: Treasurer, CAAHEP Commissioner

Site Visitor Since: 1999

2009 CoARC Excellence in Respiratory Care Education Award

This year the CoARC used objective threshold criteria for the 2009 Excellence in Respiratory Care Education Award; all 200-level accredited programs with 90% or higher RRT credentialing success for the most recent three-year graduate cohort, as reported on the 2008 Annual Report, were recognized if they also met or exceeded attrition and job placement thresholds. RRT credentialing success is calculated from the 2008 Annual Report by dividing the cumulative number of graduates earning the RRT credential for the years 2007, 2006 and 2005 by the total number of graduates the program produced in those years. Ten out of approximately 400 programs in the country met these criteria and received the 2009 CoARC Excellence in Respiratory Care Education Award during a CoARC reception preceding the AARC Summer Forum.

**Forsyth Technical Community
College**

University of Missouri-Columbia

**St. Alexius Medical Center/
University of Mary**

University of Minnesota Rochester

**University of Arkansas for
Medical Sciences**

Bellarmine University

**Ozarks Technical Community
College**

**ND State University/MeritCare
Hospital Consortium**

Baptist College of Health Science

Rolla Technical Center



back row left to right:

Brian Parker, Baptist College of Health Sciences
Vanessa King, University of Minnesota Rochester
Erna Boone, UAMS
Christine Sperle, St. Alexius/University of Mary
Doug Pursley, Ozarks Technical Community College

front row left to right:

Shawna Strickland, University of Missouri-Columbia
Dr. Shelley Mishoe
Diane Oldfather, Rolla Technical Center
Robyn Urlacher, ND State/MeritCare

Those not pictured:

Christy Kane, Bellarmine
Perry Sheppard, Forsyth

Program Notices

- http://coarc.com/program_notices.htm

Annual Reports

- http://coarc.com/annual_reports.htm

Self Studies

- http://coarc.com/self_studies.htm

CoARC Meeting Dates

- July 16-19, 2010 Marco Island, FL
- November 12-14, 2010 Bedford, TX
- March 3-5, 2011 Bedford, TX



The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care held their first official meeting on November 12, 2009. Additional pictures and short biographies are also included on the following pages of the newsletter.

Get To Know The Commissioners

Sherif Afifi, MD, FCCM, FCCP
American Society of Anesthesiologists



Dr. Afifi of Chicago, IL joins the CoARC as a representative of the American Society of Anesthesia (ASA). He is an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. He is the Chief of the Critical Care Division, Director of the Anesthesiology Critical Care Fellowship Program, and Medical Director of the Cardiothoracic Transplant ICU. Dr. Afifi completed his B.Sc. from East Tennessee State University, and his MD degree from Cairo University School of Medicine, in Cairo, Egypt. He spent two years in the Duke University Hyperbaric Center, and completed his training in Anesthesiology, followed by a Critical Care Medicine Fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. From 1995 to 2003 he was a faculty member of Yale University Anesthesiology Department, rising to the rank of Associate Professor of Anesthesiology & Critical Care Medicine. He joined the Northwestern faculty in 2005 following a brief position as Interim Program Director at the Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Chicago.

Ronald C. Allison, MD
American Thoracic Society



Dr. Allison represents the American Thoracic Society. Originally from Texas, Dr. Allison received a BA degree from Baylor University (Waco, TX) and his MD degree in 1971 from the University of Texas Medical School in San Antonio. Dr. Allison completed an internship at Northwestern University (Chicago) and a residency in Internal Medicine back at the University of Texas (San Antonio). From 1974-77, he served in the US Army Medical Corps in Japan. He subsequently trained as a Fellow in Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City for 3 years. In 1980, Dr. Allison began his academic career at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in Mobile, AL where he holds full professor academic rank in several teaching and administrative positions. He is currently the Program Director for the Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine Fellowship program. He was the Director of the Pulmonary Division from 2001 through 2007. Since 1980, he has been the Medical Director for the Department of Cardiorespiratory Care (BS degree program), College of Allied Health Professions, at the University of South Alabama. He is also the Medical Director for the MICU and the pulmonary laboratory at Univ. of South Alabama Medical Center. Dr. Allison enjoys teaching at all levels, particularly applying pulmonary physiology to ventilator and gas-exchange problems in the MICU.

Get To Know The Commissioners —Continued

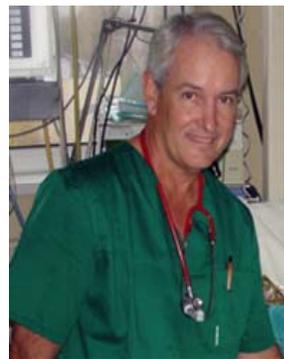
David Bowton, MD, FCCP, FCCM
American Thoracic Society



Dr. Bowton received his medical degree from the University of Illinois in 1975, and did his residency in Internal Medicine and Fellowship in Pulmonary Disease at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC. Dr. Bowton is board certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Diseases, and Critical Care. After leaving to enter private practice, he returned to Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in 1983 where he served as the Director of the Critical Care Fellowship Program, and was also Associate Medical Director of the Adult Intensive Care Units, Medical Director of Respiratory Care and the Director of the Asthma Clinic. From 2002-2003 he was a Senior Clinical Research Physician and a Senior Manager at Eli Lilly in Indianapolis.

Dr. Bowton is currently Professor and Head of the Section on Critical Care in the Department of Anesthesiology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine and Medical Director of Respiratory Care at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. Dr. Bowton has been active in both translational and clinical research. He has numerous publications in respected peer reviewed journals, including *N Engl J Med*, *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*, *Chest*, *Ann Intern Med*, *Crit Care Med*, and *Anesthesiology*. His translational research has been funded by the NIH and industry and has centered on the role of phospholipases and surfactant dysfunction in asthma. His current clinical research interests revolve around the mechanically ventilated patient, especially the diagnosis and treatment of nosocomial pneumonia and improving the process of care for mechanically ventilated patients.

Joseph P. Coyle, MD
American College of Chest Physicians



Dr. Joe Coyle is currently a Lecturer in the BSRT completion program at UNC Charlotte; he has been appointed as the ACCP representative to CoARC. Dr. Coyle has spent the last 19 years as an Anesthesiologist and Critical Care physician at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. He has served as the Medical Director of Respiratory Therapy, the Medical Director of the Cardiovascular Recovery Unit and Vice-Chief of the Department of Anesthesiology. Dr. Coyle is a graduate of Villanova University and Hahneman Medical College in Philadelphia. He did his residency in Anesthesiology at Bethesda Naval Hospital and did two years of Fellowship training at Harvard University at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Critical Care Medicine and Cardiac Anesthesia. Dr. Coyle was Chief of Cardiac Anesthesia and Assistant Director of Critical Care at Bethesda Naval Hospital before he accepted the position as Fellowship Director in Cardiac Anesthesia at the Cleveland Clinic. He moved from Cleveland to his current position at Carolinas Medical Center in 1990.

Dr. Coyle has served as an Examiner in Anesthesiology for the American Board of Anesthesiology, and he was Chairman of the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board for 7 years. He is a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians and he has been on the "Best Doctors" list in Charlotte for several years. Dr. Coyle has been involved in education throughout his career, including participation in the didactic program for the UNCC Nurse Anesthesia Program, as well as his current position with the BSRT program at UNCC.

Get To Know The Commissioners —Continued

Becki L. Evans, MS, RRT
Therapist-At-Large



Ms. Evans of Tulsa, OK returns to the Board as the Therapist-At-Large member. Currently she is the Academic Division Administrator-Allied Health Services, and an Associate Professor of Respiratory Care at Tulsa Community College, Tulsa, OK. She was very active in the CoARC from 1999 through 2007, serving as the CoARC Chair in 2004 and 2005.

Ms. Evans received her BA from Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kansas, and her MS degree from Oklahoma State University, where she is currently a doctoral student in educational administration and higher education. Ms. Evans has been a member of the AARC since 1974, and was very active in the Nebraska and Oklahoma respiratory therapy societies. In 2009 she was a University Presidential Inaugural Scholar and an attendee of the inauguration of Barack Obama, the 44th President of the United States.

Diane Flatland, MS, RRT-NPS
American Association for Respiratory Care



Ms. Flatland has 31 years of experience as a respiratory care educator. Currently, she is a Division Chair for Allied Health and Program Director of Respiratory Care at Alvin Community College in Alvin, Texas. She was director of clinical education for respiratory care at UTMB-Galveston, Texas from 1979-1981. She has taught at Alvin Community College since 1981, has been a CoARC site visitor since 1990, and an active member of the Texas Society of Respiratory Care since 1979, where she served on the scholarship and education committee.

Ms. Flatland has been a member of the AARC since 1975. She received her B.S. from Iowa State University and her M.S. from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She has been on the Editorial Board for the Distinguished Papers Monograph (Respiratory Care Education Annual) and has been a textbook reviewer since 1995.

Ms. Flatland is currently a licensed paramedic in the state of Texas and volunteered for 16 years with two community emergency medical services.

Get To Know The Commissioners —Continued

Allen N. Gustin, Jr., MD
American Society of Anesthesiologists



Dr. Gustin represents the American Society of Anesthesiologists. Currently he is an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at the University of Washington School Of Medicine, Seattle, WA. He completed his undergraduate degree at The College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, and earned his M.D. from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC. Dr. Gustin then completed three years of general surgery residency followed by two years of suicide gene therapy research in 2001 at the University of Alabama (UAB) at Birmingham Medical Center, Birmingham, AL. He completed an anesthesiology residency followed by a one year fellowship in critical care medicine in 2005 in the Department of Anesthesiology at UAB. Dr. Allen then accepted a position as an assistant professor of anesthesiology at the Department of Anesthesiology, Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, GA. He served as Director of the cardiothoracic ICU at Emory Hospital for approximately two years before moving to the VA Puget Sound Health System, Seattle, WA in December 2007.

Thomas Hill, PhD, RRT, FAARC
American Association for Respiratory Care



Dr. Hill of Athens, GA joined the CoARC in November, 2009 as an AARC Representative. He has been a Site Visitor for CoARC since 2004. A graduate of SUNY Upstate Medical Center, SUNY College at Cortland, and the University of Dayton, he has been involved in respiratory care education for thirty years.

Dr. Hill taught in the respiratory care program at SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, NY, was program director for respiratory care at Kettering College of Medical Arts in Dayton, OH, and served as Dean of Allied Health and Nursing at Athens Technical College in Athens, GA. He is currently Executive Director for Kettering National Seminars.

Dr. Hill has been an AARC Member since 1976 and has held elected offices with the New York and Ohio State Societies. He served as Chair of the AARC Education Section in 2004-2005 and participated with the Education Section's Educator Academy. He currently serves on the AARC Sputum Bowl Committee.

Get To Know The Commissioners —Continued

Ralph L. Kendall, MD, FCCP American College of Chest Physicians



Dr. Kendall was appointed to the CoARC board in 2000 to complete the last two years of a term vacated by another physician. He was elected to his first four-year term beginning in February, 2004 and is now in his second term, which expires November, 2011. He has chaired the CoARC site visitor subcommittee for a number of years. Dr. Kendall received his undergraduate degree in Biology and Chemistry from Davis and Elkins College, WV in 1949. He graduated from the West Virginia School of Medicine and the Medical College of Virginia in 1951 and 1953 respectively and completed post graduate training at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and School of Medicine, Baltimore MD in 1978 and at the Duke Hospital and School of Medicine, Durham NC in 1979. Dr. Kendall is a fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians, board qualified in pulmonary disease.

In his long career as a physician, Dr. Kendall has held numerous posts at many hospitals in New York, Connecticut, Virginia, and Massachusetts. He continues to serve as a consultant to a number of healthcare institutions, including tuberculosis consultant to the Baystate Medical Center, Springfield MA and internal medicine consultant to Western Massachusetts Hospital, Westfield MA. He is a lecturer at Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston and has held lectureships at several other medical schools including the University of Massachusetts, the University of Guadalajara (Mexico), Yale University, and Albany Medical School, NY. From 1980-1990 he was the medical director for the respiratory therapy program at Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester MA.

Dr. Kendall has played an indispensable role in his long association with the CoARC; he is well known throughout the respiratory therapy educational community due to his extensive experience as an on-site accreditation inspector. He has completed over 140 site visits since 1994, serving as team captain for most of them. Over the years, Dr. Kendall has been a mentor for many volunteer educators and physicians aspiring to become site visitors for the CoARC.

Diane J. Klepper, MD Physician At Large



Dr. Klepper of Albuquerque, NM is returning to the CoARC as a Physician-At-Large member after having served a four-year term from 1997-2001 as an elected ACCP representative; she served as the chair of CoARC in 1999.

She is an Emerita Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine and has served for over 20 years as the Medical Director of Respiratory Care at Central New Mexico Community College.

Dr. Klepper completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Kansas, her MA in education from Columbia University, New York, and her MD from the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City.

Get To Know The Commissioners —Continued

Bradley Leidich, MEd, RRT, FAARC Therapist At Large



Bradley A. Leidich, MEd, RRT, FAARC, served two consecutive terms as a member of CoARC from 1999-2007 as an AARC representative and is currently serving a third term as Therapist at Large. He served as Secretary from 2004 to 2007. He has been an active site visitor since 1990.

Mr. Leidich started in respiratory therapy in 1969 graduating from St Joseph Hospital School for Respiratory Therapy in Lancaster, PA in 1973. In his earlier career he was a supervisor and department manager then became an educator. He started his education career as program director at Lehigh County Community College in 1976 then moved to Harrisburg Area Community College in 1989 where he is currently program director and Chair of Allied Health and Human Services. His undergraduate degree is in business administration (major accounting) from the Pennsylvania State University with a graduate degree from Temple University.

Mr. Leidich has been active with the Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care serving in various capacities to include President and Delegate to the AARC House of Delegates. He's an active member of the PA State Workforce Investment Board's Healthcare Committee since it's inception as well as with his local WIBs Healthcare Committee and works closely with the PA Center for Health Careers to promote Allied Health education throughout the Commonwealth.

Stephen P. Mikles, EdS, RRT, FAARC American Association for Respiratory Care



Stephen Mikles, EdS, RRT, FAARC, Chair-elect of the CoARC, served as a member of the Joint Review Committee for Respiratory Therapy Education and the first board of CoARC from 1994-1998 and is currently serving the second of two consecutive terms on the board. He served as Treasurer from 1997-1998 and from 2006-2009. He has been an active site visitor since 1989.

Mr. Mikles completed his undergraduate studies in respiratory therapy at SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, New York and his graduate studies in education at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida. Mr. Mikles was an instructor at SUNY Upstate Medical Center from 1977 to 1979. He became a faculty member at St. Petersburg College in 1979 and has been the program director there since 1986.

Although he is published and has served on many state and national committees he considers his work in the classroom as his greatest contribution to the profession.

Get To Know The Commissioners —Continued

Jolene K. Miller, MEd, RRT
National Network of Health Career Programs
in Two-Year Colleges (NN2)



Jolene Miller was appointed to the CoARC Board by the National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges (NN2), in 2005. Jolene is the Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Ivy Tech Community College in Lafayette, IN. She has been in this position since 1990, and with Ivy Tech since 1982. Jolene's first position with the College was as Director of Clinical Education for an entry-level program in Respiratory Care. The program was upgraded to an associate degree program in the early 90's. The School of Health Sciences is composed of eight nursing and allied health programs. She has also served as a staff therapist, an assistant department head for a hospital respiratory care department, and as a consultant.

Jolene has a master's degree from Purdue University in Education, a bachelor's degree in Health Arts from the University of St. Francis, and an associate's degree in Respiratory Therapy from the University of Southern Indiana.

Jolene served on the Commission for Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) for nine years, representing technical colleges. As commissioner, she served on ad hoc committees and on the nominations committee. Jolene also served two terms as treasurer for NN2. She is also active in local organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce and a continuous care retirement community board. Jolene is married and has two adult sons, two grandchildren, and enjoys reading, Sudoku puzzles, and is an avid basketball fan, true to her Hoosier roots.

Tammy A. Miller, MEd, CPFT, RRT
American Association for Respiratory Care



Tammy Miller represents the American Association for Respiratory Care. She completed her respiratory therapy education at Southwest Georgia Technical College, Thomasville, GA in 1984. In 1989 she completed her B.S. degree from Berry College, Rome, GA and earned her M.Ed. from Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA in 1992.

She is currently program director for the Southwest Georgia Technical College Respiratory Therapy Program where she has been teaching for 19 years; she was the director of clinical education from 1991-1995 and has been program director since that time. In 1995 she was named instructor of the year at Southwest Georgia Technical College.

She is active in the Georgia Society for Respiratory Care, where she served on the program and education committee and was a district representative for two years. She is currently the education coordinator for Camp Easy Air, a local camp for children with asthma, and is the club advisor for the Skills USA student organization. In 2007 she received the pioneer award for respiratory care education at the annual respiratory care week awards ceremony at Tift Regional Medical Center, Tifton, GA.

Ms. Miller has served as a site visitor for CoARC for several years.

Get To Know The Commissioners —Continued

Shelley C. Mishoe, PhD, RRT, FAARC Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions



Dr. Shelley C. Mishoe has held numerous state and national offices including president of the Georgia Society for Respiratory Care, secretary and parliamentarian of the House of Delegates (HOD), and chair of CoARC. Dr. Mishoe is an inaugural Fellow of the American Association for Respiratory Care (FAARC) and served on the *Respiratory Care* editorial board, 1994-2009. She has been recognized as the HOD Delegate of the Year and Outstanding Practitioner of the Year, Education Section. Dr. Mishoe is an active site visitor and the past chair of CoARC having an instrumental role in the formation of the new Commission. She has over 30 years of experience in higher education, including 12 years as program director/chair of the respiratory therapy department at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG). Dr. Mishoe is currently the Associate Provost for Academic Strategic Initiatives, having served as Dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences from 2001-2009. Dr. Mishoe has been a leader and advocate of innovations in respiratory therapy education, having written editorials, research articles and textbooks. She has mentored many first time authors, especially original work from dissertations and educational research.

Dr. Mishoe is currently completing a one year fellowship with the American Council on Education, which afforded her the opportunity to be in residence at Wofford College during the Fall 2009 and to visit numerous institutions of higher education in the United States and South Africa. She is expanding her research collaborations on enhancing students' critical thinking through innovations in biology courses, interdisciplinary teaching and student engagement.

Shelley and her husband Ken have two sons, Wesley and Jeffrey. Wesley is completing law school and Jeffrey is completing his undergraduate degree in finance. The Mishoes enjoy hiking, "working out" and traveling.

Kathy J. Rye, EdD, RRT, FAARC American Association for Respiratory Care



Kathy Rye, EdD, RRT, FAARC joined the CoARC as an AARC representative in July, 2008. She currently serves the Board as Secretary. She has been a CoARC (formerly JRCRTE) site visitor since 1996.

Dr. Rye has over 25 years of experience in Respiratory Care with 20 of those years devoted to Respiratory Care Education. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in Little Rock, Arkansas where she has served as Director of Clinical Education since August, 1993. During her tenure at UAMS, she has been instrumental in the development and implementation of a Baccalaureate Degree Program and Distance Learning in the Cardio-Respiratory Care Program. She received a B. S. degree in Cardiopulmonary Science from Louisiana State University Medical Center in Shreveport, Louisiana; a Masters degree in Adult Education from University of Arkansas at Little Rock; and a Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Leadership from University of Arkansas at Little Rock, AR.

Dr. Rye has been an active member of the Arkansas Society for Respiratory Care for over 16 years where she has served the ASRC as Vice-President, President, and as Delegate to the AARC House of Delegates. She currently serves the AARC on the Public Relations Action Team and on the Education Section's Ad Hoc Committee for Preceptor Training and the Abstract Review Committee. Kathy was recognized as the Practitioner of the Year by the Education Specialty Section of the AARC in December, 2008 and received the Ikaria Best First Author Literary Award in December, 2009.

Kathy and her husband, Lindsey, live in Russellville, Arkansas, where they have a cattle farm. They enjoy traveling and are avid Arkansas Razorback fans.

Get To Know The Commissioners —Continued

Bonner Smith, JD
Public Representative



Bonner Smith, JD, has been a public member of the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care for 12 years, and currently serves on the Accreditation Policies, Standards, Bylaws, and Nomination and Elections Committees.

Mr. Smith has practiced law for over 30 years, beginning as a prosecutor and is in private practice in Lubbock, Texas, in the areas of civil litigation, business and commercial law, health law, corporate, real estate, probate, and criminal law. He has represented health care entities and practitioners since the early 1980's, and has served as a hospital board chairman, vice-chairman and board member. He taught Health Care law at the graduate and undergraduate level, and Business Law and Business Ethics to undergraduates as a part-time instructor at Wayland Baptist University, Lubbock Branch for seventeen years. He also taught paralegal courses in the Texas Tech University Continuing Education division for many years.

Mr. Smith is a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, and a member of the Texas Healthcare Trustees Association. He led and served on numerous community, civic, charitable, education and athletic committees, boards and organizations. Mr. Smith is a retired Colonel from the Air Force Reserve where he served as an intelligence officer.

Gary C. White, MEd, RRT, RPFT
American Association for Respiratory Care



Mr. White represents the American Association for Respiratory Care. Mr. White is currently the director of the respiratory care program at Spokane Community College, Spokane, WA. He has taught at Spokane Community College since 1992; from 1982-1992 he was an assistant professor of respiratory care at Weber State University, Ogden, UT. Mr. White earned his undergraduate degree in biology from the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA and an associate's degree in respiratory therapy from Highline Community College, Des Moines, WA. He earned his master's degree in education from Weber State University.

Gary has authored three textbooks used by many respiratory therapy programs in the USA. In addition to his career, he enjoys alpine skiing and flying and is completing the requirements for a commercial pilot's license.

Recent Policy Changes

A new policy manual will be released on June 1, 2010. Recent changes are as follows:

- As of June 1, 2010 no applications will be accepted for satellites with greater than 20 students (maximum aggregate enrollment). On or before January 1, 2015, sponsors with satellites with more than twenty (20) students (aggregate enrollment) must either: (1) Reduce maximum aggregate enrollments to twenty (20) or fewer students; or (2) Apply for accreditation of the satellite as a base program (see Policy 2.02) and submit a Voluntary Withdrawal of Accreditation of the satellite program (see Policy 1.057).
- As of June 1, 2010 ,CoARC will no longer issue approval for scheduling options (the time of day and/or days of the week when the curriculum is offered). All programs that currently have a separate CoARC program number for their scheduling option(s) will be required to report their outcomes data under the base program number beginning with the next Annual Report due April 15, 2011.
- The CoARC outcomes threshold for attrition will increase from 30% to 40% beginning with the Annual Report due April 15, 2011. CoARC will focus exclusively on programmatic attrition, i.e., students who leave the program for academic or non-academic reasons. This decision was based on a review of the 2009 Annual Report data.
- The Annual Report due April 15, 2011 will also collect on-time graduation rate data. This will be calculated as the number of students who graduate with their enrollment cohort (i.e. by their expected graduation date) divided by the total number of students enrolled in that cohort. The enrollment date and the expected graduation date of each cohort are specified by the program. This data will be analyzed to determine whether or not an outcome threshold is warranted.

Update on Phase out of 100-level (CRT-preparation programs)

As of July 1, 2010, no new students shall be admitted into 100-level programs. Students enrolled in a 100-level program must graduate by December 31, 2012, to be recognized as graduates of a CoARC-accredited program. All 100-level programs that remain non-compliant with the new standards must voluntarily withdraw effective December 31, 2012. Failure to do so by this date will result in a COARC action to withdraw accreditation.

Accreditation Standards Reminder

The 2003 CAAHEP Standards will be in effect until June 1, 2010. The 2010 CoARC Accreditation Standards for the Profession of Respiratory Care were adopted in March by the AARC, ACCP, ATS, and ASA. These Standards will be in effect as of June 1, 2010. A document comparing the 2003 CAAHEP Standards with the 2010 CoARC Standards for use as a guide in the transition is available at our website.

Update on New Annual Reporting Tool

CoARC continues to work with Liaison International to develop its new web-based annual reporting tool called “E-Accreditation”. Beta-testing will occur this spring with an anticipated “go live” sometime this fall. The annual report deadline has been moved from September each year to April 15th. The next report is due April 15th, 2011. More details will be provided at the AARC Summer Forum.

CoARC Presentations at the AARC Summer Forum

CoARC Symposium: Program Development, Evaluation, and Self-analysis under the New CoARC Standards

Accreditation of respiratory care programs by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) includes a comprehensive review of the program relative to the accreditation Standards. Accreditation decisions are based on the CoARC’s review of information contained in the accreditation application and self-study report, the report of site visit evaluation teams, the annual Report of Current Status, and any additional requested reports or documents submitted to the CoARC by the program. This symposium provides essential information designed to successfully navigate program faculty through the accreditation process under the new 2010 CoARC accreditation Standards that went into effect on June 1st.

CoARC’s New Accreditation Standards: Is My Program in Compliance?

David Bowton, MD, FCCP, FCCM and Kathy Rye, EdD, RRT, FAARC

Attendees will be provided with an overview of the new accreditation standards and its implications for programs and the profession. The presenter will focus on the most significant differences between the current and new Standards. Strategies for implementing programmatic changes to address compliance with the new standards will also be discussed.

Preparing Self Studies under the New Standards: What’s In? What’s Out?

Stephen Mikles EdS, RRT, FAARC and Jolene Miller MEd, RRT

This presentation will cover the strategies needed for successfully completing the newly revised self study reports. Included is a discussion of the changes made to the format and how the new reports integrate with the site visit review process. Emphasis will be placed on the steps necessary to comply with the new CoARC accreditation standards.

CoARC Presentations at the AARC Summer Forum (continued)

The Site Visitors are Coming!- Transitioning from Successful Self-Study to Successful Site Visit

Brad Leidich, MEd, RRT, FAARC and Becki Evans, MS, RRT

This presentation focuses on how to prepare for an accreditation site visit under the new Standards; topics will be presented from the perspective of the department chair, dean, and key program faculty. General topics include planning ahead to ensure participation by key individuals; gathering and organizing essential documentation; and preparing your students, faculty, and administrators for the site visit.

What is E-Accreditation? - Introducing CoARC's New Annual Reporting Tool

Tom Smalling, PhD, RRT, FAARC

Attendees will be provided with an overview of CoARC's new Web-based annual reporting tool, E-Accreditation, which assists programs in their collection of annual program data and outcomes data. The presenter will demonstrate the features of the new software and discuss the differences between this and the previous reporting tool. The proposed implementation plan and April 15th, 2011 deadline will also be discussed.

H.F. Helmholtz Educational Lecture Series

Dr. Mark Taylor, MSW, EdD

Dr. Taylor's presentation is entitled "A Pedagogy for Today's Learner."

CoARC's 40th Birthday Celebration

CoARC will host a special reception to celebrate 40 years of providing accreditation services to the profession. The time and location will be announced at a later date. Please e-mail shelley@coarc.com if you are attending the Summer Forum and will join us for our celebration.



Recognition of 2009 CoARC Site Visitors

The following individuals have graciously contributed to CoARC's mission by volunteering their time and expertise as site visitors in 2009; team captains are designated by asterisks:

Sherif Afifi, MD, FCCM, FCCP*
Curtis Aumiller, MS, RRT, NPS, RPFT*
Thomas Baxter, MHRD, RRT*
Georgine Bills, MBA, RRT*
Catherine Bitsche, MA, RRT, NPS
John Boatright, PhD, RRT
Janet Boehm, MS, RRT*
Erna Boone, MEd, RRT*
Ross Bowers, MHS, RRT
David Bowton, MD, FCCP, FCCM*
Phyllis Brunner, BS, RRT*
J.M. Cairo, PhD, RRT, FAARC*
Leah Carlson, BS, RRT, NPS
David Chang, EdD, RRT, NPS*
Kelli Chronister, MS, RRT, CPFT, NPS
Regina Clark, MEd, RRT*
Carole Crawford-Jones, MS, RRT
Robert DeLorme, EdS, RRT*
Diane Flatland, MS, RRT*
Ian Gilmour, MD*
Paul Goldiner, MD*
Christine Hamilton, DHSc, RRT, AE-C
Louis Harris, EdD, RRT
Thomas Harding, MS, RRT, RPFT
Thomas Hill, PhD, RRT, FAARC*
Shirley Jenkins, BSEd, RRT
Patrick Johnson, PhD, RRT, FAARC
Chris Kallus, MEd, RRT*

Ralph Kendall, MD, FCCP*
Shane Keene, RRT, NPS, RPSGT
Peter Kennedy, PhD, RRT*
Diane Klepper, MD*
Paul LaMere, MEd, RRT
Barbara Larsson, MEd, RRT*
Bradley Leidich, MEd, RRT, FAARC*
Debra Lierl, MEd, RRT, FAARC
Douglas Masini, EdD, RRT, NPS, RPFT, FAARC
Kenney McCowen, BS, RRT
Stephen Mikles, EdS, RRT, FAARC*
Robert Milisch, MEd, RRT*
Jolene Miller, MEd, RRT*
Tammy Miller, MEd, RRT, CPFT*
Shelley Mishoe, PhD, RRT, FAARC*
Pat Munzer, DHSc, RRT*
Carolyn O'Daniel, EdD, RRT*
Timothy O'pt Holt, EdD, RRT, FAARC*
Leann Papp, EdS, RN, RRT*
Gregory Paulauskis, PhD, RRT, FAARC*
Lorenzo Pelly, MD
Bill Pifer, BS, RRT
Michael Prewitt, PhD, RRT*
Lee Robinson, MEd, RRT
Kathy Boggs-Rye, EdD, RRT*
Jill Sand, BS, RRT
Monica Schibig, MA, RRT-NPS, CPFT
Everett (Tom) Wood, MS, RRT*
Beth Zikefoose, BS, RRT, NPS, RPFT

THANK YOU!

CoARC Executive Office Staff Phone: 817-283-2835 Fax: 817-354-8519

Thomas R. Smalling, PhD, RRT, RPFT, RPSGT, FAARC

Executive Director (Extension 101)

E-mail: tom@coarc.com

Self-Study Content Questions
 New Program Inquires
 Questions about Annual Reports
 Polysomnography
 Standards & Guidelines Questions
 Consortia Agreements
 Change in Sponsorship
 Website & Database Support



Shelley Christensen

Receptionist/Administrative Assistant (Extension 100)

Email: shelley@coarc.com

Key Personnel Changes
 Program Address & Name Changes
 All Meeting Planning



Lisa Collard, AS

Accreditation Services Coordinator/
 Assistant to Executive Director (Extension 106)

Email: lisa@coarc.com

Assist with Self-Studies
 Progress Reports
 Special Projects



Jana L. Anderson

Director of Office Operations (Extension 103)

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Billing/Accounting
 Submission of Annual Reports



Bonnie Marrs, BS

Site Visit Coordinator/
 Accreditation Services Assistant (Extension 102)

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Site Visits
 Site Visitor Applications/Inquires
 Referee Communications



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