



### 2024 ACGME Session: FDC006

# Creating a Coordinators Forum

GIVING PROGRAM COORDINATORS A VOICE IN THE GME COMMUNITY

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Natalie Arrindell, MBA

Debra Owens, MSEd, C-TAGME

Kino Williams, PsyD(c), MS, PHR, CPHQ, C-TAGME





Speaker(s): Natalie Arrindell, MBA

Juliet Arthur, PsyD(c), MHA, C-TAGME

Debra Owens, MSEd, C-TAGME

Kino Williams, PsyD(c), MS, PHR, CPHQ, C-TAGME

#### Disclosure:

None of the speakers for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s) to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

## Learning Objectives

- Detail the process to create a coordinators forum
- 2. Explain how a coordinators forum can enable and promote professional development and self-empowerment
- 3. Provide step by step instructions to create professional development initiatives within your forum
- 4. Provide tools to create an awards and recognition program
- 5. Illustrate how a forum can improve communication and create networks within the GME community

## Meet the Speakers





Natalie Arrindell, MBA



Juliet Arthur, PsyD (c), MHA, C-TAGME



Debra Owens, MSEd, C-TAGME



Kino Williams, PsyD (c), MS, PHR, CPHQ, C-TAGME

### What is the RPCF?



"We advocate for ourselves and each other."

- The Residency Program Coordinators' Forum (RPCF) represents 42 GME residency program coordinators who manage the 20 residency and 31 fellowship ACGME-accredited programs and over 900 residents and fellows at the SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University
- The cornerstones of the forum are productivity, positive morale, personal development, and advocacy
- Founded in October 2018 by Juliet Arthur
- Natalie Arrindell, named GME Liaison November 2018
- Debra Owens joined Juliet Arthur as RPCF's Co-Chair January 2019
- Later in 2019 forum leadership changed to an executive committee consisting of five (5) administrators/coordinators



### The RPCF Mission



Our Mission: To support all residency and fellowship program coordinators in the areas of professional development, residency educational development, emotional and physical well-being, advocacy, and work-life balance



Our mission statement is "We advocate for ourselves and each other"



Our partnered mission: To work in tangent with SUNY Downstate to fulfill the mission of the university



### **RPCF Structure**

> GME

> DIO

>RPCF Executive Committee

>RPCF Forum Committees



**DEVELOPMENT** 





TAGME



RPCF NEWSLETTER – "THE BUZZ"



AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP



SOCAL MEDIA & WEBSITE



WELLNESS



Residency Program Coordinators' Forum

"We advocate for ourselves and each other."

MEMBERSHIP/MENTOR SHIP

RPCF Forum
Members



Program Residency & Fellowship
Coordinators

### The RPCF Executive Committee



Executive Committee Members	Department	Position
Juliet Arthur, MHA, C-TAGME	GME	Affiliation and Contracts Administrator (Previously Psychiatry Program Administrator)
Natalie Arrindell, MBA	GME	Administrator
Chantal Littrean, MPH, C-TAGME	Internal Medicine	Administrator
Debra Owens, MEd, C-TAGME	Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehabilitation Medicine	Senior Program Analyst (Sports Medicine Fellowship Coordinator and PM&R Residency Program Coordinator)
Kino Williams, MS, PHR, CPHQ, C-TAGME	Radiology	Radiation Oncology Program Administrator



## The Journey to RPCF... Partnering with our GME and DIO's



Stephen Wadowski, MD 2008 - 2016

2018 - 2019

Robin Gitman, MBA, MPH Teresa Y. Smith, MD, MSED 2019 – August 2023

Lisa Dresner, MD, FACS September 2023 -**Present** 

















### What is a Forum?



- A place, meeting, or medium where ideas and views on a particular issue can be exchanged (Oxford, n.d.)
- Professional Associations are Forums where a group of people with mutual interests can network, ask questions, and create a sense of community on a national or global level
- In today's world, most medical specialties have professional associations





"We advocate for ourselves and each other."

## Why would YOU start a forum?

List your reasons







Professional Development



Networking opportunities



Collaboration/sharing of ideas



Increased knowledge



Added resources



Leadership opportunities

## The History...



- Association of Program Coordinators in Radiology was the 1st PC association created. Formed in 1998
- ➤ The ACGME provides accreditation for 45 specialties and sub-specialties with all having some sort of program coordinator association
- AROPA (Association of Radiation Oncology Program Administrators) was one of the earliest coordinator associations; founded by Cordelia Baffic in 1999 (formerly AROPC)
  - \* AROPA was birthed out of a need and a vision:
    - A Need support, professional development, and educational opportunities to program coordinators
    - A Vision to elevate the position of a 'coordinator' to that of an 'educational administrator'



Cordy's favorite quote:
"Don't reinvent the
wheel, just realign it":
 Anthony D'Angelo

Cordelia Baffic



Denise De La Cruz



Marlene Kromchad

### How to Start a Forum At Your Institution



The Who, What, How, and Why...of creating a forum

- **Who** are the target stakeholders...both inclusive of and in addition to the coordinators?
- What are the short and long-term goals of the forum and What resources are needed to realize these goals?
- How will these goals be accomplished?
- Why is the forum needed and is it sustainable?





## Support of Leadership



- DIO
- ► GMEC
- Departmental Chairs
- Program Directors & Associate Program Directors
- University President
- Deans
- C-Suite CEO, COO, VP's
- Other institutional and/or executive bodies/committees







## Setting your Expectations...

"We advocate for ourselves and each other."

Expectations to consider when creating your forum:

- > Set attainable and mutually agreed upon mission and goals
- Devise a forum structure identifying levels of hierarchy
- Develop roles and responsibilities for each hierarchy level
- Set regular meeting and reporting times
- > Be ready and willing to navigate challenges
- Work collaboratively in good faith with all stakeholders be prepared to negotiate
- Have open lines of communication
- Manage triumphs and trials appropriately
- > YOU ARE IN THIS FOR THE LONG HAUL
- CREATE A SPACE FOR MEMBERS TO GROW, BLOSSOM AND FLOURISH





## **Knowing Your Teammates**



Weight Class	Leadership Level	Characteristics	Their Role in The Forum
Feather Weight	Permission	Focuses on building and growing relationships	Cheer Leaders
Light Weight	Production	Focuses on improving or increasing results	Doers
Middle Weight	People Development	Leaders who teach, mentor, build and multiply other leaders	Advocates/Mentors
Heavy Weight	Pinnacle	"World Changers," well known for their accomplishments and the impact they have had on the lives of others	Champions



## **RPCF's Initiatives**

R.P.C.F.

Residency Program Coordinators' Forum

"We advocate for ourselves and each other."

- > RPCF Listserv
- RPCF Website
- RPCF quarterly newsletter The Buzz
- TAGME Taskforce
- RPCF annual coordinators educational retreat
- Informational & professional development workshops
- RPCF annual coordinator awards and recognition program
- Community outreach endeavors
- Securing of funding for RPCF initiatives



## Funding Your Forum



- Create a budget should include all activities that you would want to undertake
   educational retreat, wellness events etc. and their anticipated costs
- Identify funding sources and amounts
- Create forum account(s)
- Maintain up-to-date and balanced record/book-keeping
- Timely review of finances
- Be transparent with all aspects of funding
- Allow for multiple levels of scrutiny
- Report finances to stakeholders



## **RPCF Annual Retreats**



"We advocate for ourselves and each other."

Year	Title	Keynote
2019	"Building Resilience and Well-Being"	Elizabeth L. Wueste (Payne), MAEd, C-TAGME, LSSBB Director of Academic Programs, Coordinator of Record, and Associate Program Director University of Texas Health San Antonio
2021	"Make YOU the Priority! Restore, Reenergize and Revitalize Your Professional Health and Wellbeing"	Juanita Braxton, PhD, EdS, MBA Education Director University of California Davis Health Imani Consultants PhD Surgical GME Administration
2022	"Take charge of YOUR CAREER: Unlock your limitationsit's in your hands"	Anika Daniels-Osaze, Ed.D., MPH Associate Dean for Education, School of Public Health Teaching Associate Professor of Medicine Department of Medicine SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University
2023	"BUILDING COMMUNITIES: Empowering Coordinators to be Leaders on Their Campuses"	Kaytlyn Hope, MHA, C-TAGME Program Manager, Graduate Medical Education Boston Children's Hospital

## How To Stage Educational and Professional Development events



- 1. Implement a planning committee (3-6 months prior to event)
- 2. Poll Forum to gain coordinator input
- 3. Identify a theme or focus of event
- 4. Select a date for the event
- 5. Identify key participants who are knowledgeable on topic(s)
- 6. Create an event/project overview identifying:
  - Timelines & Calendars
  - Responsible parties
  - Clearly defined responsibilities
  - Resources needed and available
  - Key problem solvers
  - Event budget
  - Event evaluation
  - Communication intentions, methods and actions throughout the event's life





## Professional Development and Advancement through Certification









Displays committment to profession

Reflects achievement

Improves knowledge and skills



### TAGME Taskforce



#### **Timeframes:**

- Started 9 months before TAGME exam application opened
  - Monthly and quarterly response deadlines
  - Met twice as a group to go over assignments and portal
    - Continuous email communication

TAGME Study Guide as curriculum

All TAGME eligible coordinators who were then assigned to teams

Assigned a study guide section to each team to create a question-and-answer test bank along with creative study materials

**Created TAGME Learning Portal** 

## TAGME Learning Portal



TAGME Folders	Information and Information Source(s)
TAGME Study Guide	Testing material sourced from TAGME website
PowerPoint Presentations	Both Internal and External Presentations
Question-and-Answer Test Bank	<ul> <li>Created 150 questions</li> <li>Sourced test questions from Quizlet, internet, TAGME website</li> </ul>
YouTube TAGME Prep Video	Sourced various TAGME examination focused and related YouTube videos  05.07.21 Coordinator Webinar  (youtube.com)
Best Practices	<ul> <li>Created a cheat sheet</li> <li>Each test taker gave the testing group feedback; running list created</li> </ul>
Motivation	Inspirational and motivational quotes sourced via internet, listserv etc.

### TAGME Question and Answer Bank



Study Document (Identify which of the 8 documents your questions will come from	Section of the document and page number	Question	Answer along with citation sourced from the actual study document
ACGME Common Program Requirements (Residency)	Faculty - Page 12	Faculty refers to: a. Core Faculty b. Salaried Support c. Entire teaching force responsible for educating residents d. Academic appointed staff e. None of the above	C. Background and Intent: "Faculty" refers to the entire teaching force responsible for educating residents. The term "faculty," including "core faculty," does not imply or require an academic appointment or salary support



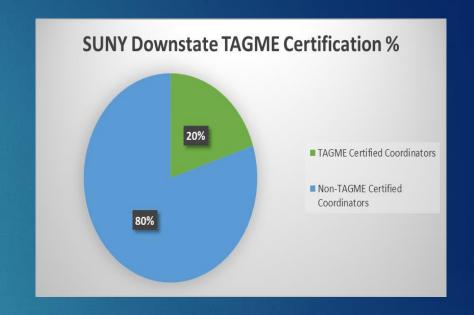
## RPCF C-TAGME Coordinators



#### **TAGME Exam Success**

All six (6) coordinators who took the exam in 2022 were successful

- Juliet Arthur, MHA, C-TAGME (GME) (2022, MOC)
- Natasha Henry, C-TAGME (Pathology) (2020)
- Yvonne Henry, C-TAGME (GME) (2022)
- Gloria Jorge, C-TAGME (Radiology) (2009)
- Chantal Littrean, MPH, C-TAGME (Internal Medicine) (2022, MOC)
- Debra Owens, MEd, C-TAGME (Sports Medicine) (2022, MOC)
- Mariaverna Sevilla, C-TAGME (Community and Family Medicine) (2020)
- Devareco Wilkie, MSc, C-TAGME (Obstetrics & Gynecology) (2022)
- Kino Williams, MS, PHR, CPHQ, T-TAGME (Radiation Oncology) (2022)







## Does Your Institution have an Awards & Recognition Program?



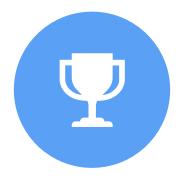
## Awards and Recognitions



Recognition awards – started in 2011 by our GME office



Provides recognition to the coordinators for the work that they are doing



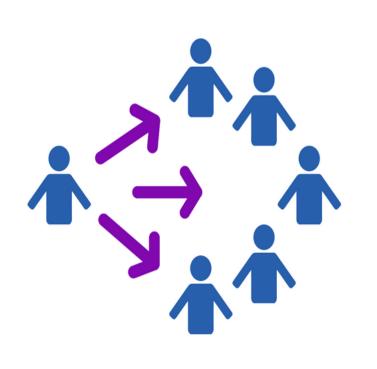
Showcases coordinators talents, skills and expertise



Take advantage of award and recognition opportunities within your instituion and/or specialty



## RPCF Annual Coordinator Awards



Year	Award	Recipient
2019	RPCF Coordinator of the Year	Shelly Anthony
2020	No Awards	
2021	Outstanding Contributions in the Support of GME during COVID-19 Pandemic	Juliet Arthur
2021	Outstanding Contributions to the Education/Support of Fellow Coordinators during COVID-19 Pandemic	Lois Cooper
2021	Continued Self-Development during COVID-19 Pandemic	Natasha Henry
2021	Outstanding Humanitarian Contribution during COVID-19 Pandemic	Nathalie Mendez
2021	Outstanding Humanitarian Contribution during COVID-19 Pandemic	Kino Williams

### Awards and Recognition Program



"We advocate for ourselves and each other."

- Create an awards and recognition program that captures coordinators at various career stages
- Ensure selection criteria allows for the most participation by coordinators
- Cultivate an environment that encourages self-value and selfworth along with selfempowerment
- Internal wins can lead to external wins both regionally and nationally

### RPCF GME Rising Star Award:

- A minimum of 1 year of service, active participation in forum, program and/or GME activities

### RPCF Humanitarian/Outreach/DEI/ Award:

- A minimum of 2 years of service, active participation in DEI/Outreach/Community activities

### RPCF GME Distinguished Service Award:

 A minimum of 3 years of service, active participation in forum, program, GME and/orinstitutional activities

### RPCF Professional Development Award:

- Continued professional development of self and the profession, active participation in forum, program, GME <u>and/or</u> institutional activities

### RPCF Annual Coordinator Awards



Award	2022	2023
RPCF GME Rising Star Award	Chelsea Cole, MPH	Nicole Snead, MPA
RPCF Humanitarian/Outreach/DEI Award	Gillian Wells-Linton	Darell Banks
RPCF GME Distinguished Service Award	Chantal Littrean, MPH, C-TAGME	Barbara Singh
RPCF Professional Development Award	Wynclette Knight, DMHA, MPA	Devareco Wilkie, MSc, C-TAGME
Maimonides Medical Center Coordinator of the Year Award	Deborah Roman	Sharon Deegan



### National Awards





The Debra L. Dooley GME Program Coordinator Excellence Award recognizes administrators for their deep understanding of the accreditation process, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and projects that improve GME

2023 - Juliet Arthur, PsyD(c), MHA, C-TAGME

2024 - Kino Williams, PsyD(c), MS, PHR, CPHQ, C-TAGME

Program Impact Institutional Impact GME Community Impact



Your forum can be the burgeoning ground for national recognition of your coordinators!

## DEI Initiatives - Community Outreach





KIDDIE COAT DRIVE



SAVE THE CHILDREN

- HAITIAN RELIEF



**BOOKBAG DRIVE** 



HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
HEALTHFAIR



## Our Biggest DEI Initiative.... Healthy Lifestyle Health Fair



"We advocate for ourselves and each other."



Downstate Physician's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Healthy Lifestyle Community Fair Theme: Celebrating Autism Awareness and Acceptance

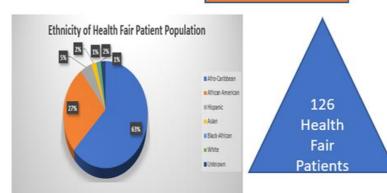
R.P.C.F. "We advocate for ourselves and each other."

400+ Health **Fairgoers** 

463 Testing, Screening and Assessments Completed

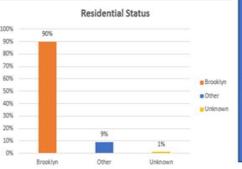
Collaboration amongst UHD, COM, CON and SOPH

100+ Volunteers

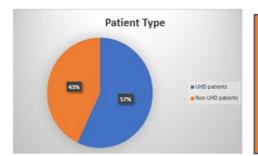








270 Schoolbags Distributed



40 Vendors 17 Sponsors





14% of Health Fair Patients to Follow-Up Care at Downstate

Average Age of Health Fair Patients: 66 years

## Our Biggest DEI Initiative.... Healthy Lifestyle Health Fair



















## **Partnerships**

- University Hospital at Downstate
- Maimonides Medical Center Affiliate Site
- Kings County Hospital Major Affiliate Site
- College of Medicine
- College of Nursing
- School of Public Health
- School of Allied Health
- Residency/Fellowship programs
- Brooklyn Children's Society
- Government Relations
- NYC Public School
- National Organizations such as HealthFirst, Sodexho
- Other Academic Higher Learning Institutions





## Marketing your forum

What is the best way to market your forum and get the word out?

- Word of mouth
- Campus wide circulations
- GME or organization website
- Social media platforms
- Peers at affiliate institutions
- National or specialty associations



## RPCF Newsletter - "The Buzz"



- Spotlight on the Coordinator
- ACGME and/or other National Associations information
- Institution/Forum News
- Professional Development Activities
- Awards and Recognitions
- Wellness Tips
- Fun Activities and Recipes
- Birthday Shout Outs
- The newsletter is distributed to leadership, program coordinators, program directors, affiliate site coordinators, past speakers, and attendees of the RPCF annual educational retreat!



### Social Media and the Forum



### Social Media is a great tool for the growth of your forum – UTILIZE IT!

RPCF has plans to expand our online presence to Instagram, X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn

- Facebook: GME Administrators Group
- LinkedIn
- Professional associations
- Residency Program Coordinator Forum website











"We advocate for ourselves and each other."

## **Future Plans**



Wellness Program and Scholarly Research



Leadership Academy



Coordinator Title Change and Salary Advocacy



**Grant Writing** 

## Bringing it all together





**Meetings** 



Everyone joins the party



Listserv



WorldWideWeb



Boss Update Partn



**Partnerships** 



**Execute Initiatives** 



**Tell Everybody** 





Natalie	Juliet	Debra	Kino
CREATE an environment where everyone feels heard and valued. FOSTER open communication, spend time with persons who CHALLENGE and MOTIVATE you	TRUST in the process and don't give up, even when it gets difficult. TEAMWORK and COLLABORATION is key for the success of YOUR forum	compliment someone else's vision, dedication, and work. But remember that you are someone too. Also, compliment yourself in your positive self-talks	BELIEVE in yourself and your vision. Expect to have some wins AND some losses along the way. For YOUR forum to be successful, you must be in it for the long haul



### Here's how to reach us...

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RPCF Executive Committee RPCFExec@downstate.edu

## **Acknowledgement & References**



- ACGME ACGME.org
- APCR APCR History and Archives (apdr.org)
- AROPA <u>AROPC Home | AROPC.Org</u>
- Bing AI 1st program coordinator association in the US
- COM & GME Leadership at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University
- Program Coordinators at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University
- What is a Forum Oxford Dictionary Oxford English Dictionary (oed.com)
- Residency Program Coordinator Forum website <a href="https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/graduate-medical-education/coordinators/index.html">https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/graduate-medical-education/coordinators/index.html</a>
- TAGME https://tagme.org
- https://leaders.com/articles/leadership/5-levels-of-leadership/
- https://blog.spartacus-mma.com/mma-weight-classes/
- <u>05.07.21 Coordinator Webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUklsSPMuuM</u>





### Complete the Evaluation for CME or Certificate of Completion!

The evaluation can be found in the mobile app and a link will be sent post-conference by email to attendees

Evaluations are tied to your registered sessions

Register/un-register sessions in the mobile app.

Deadline – April 9, 2024

Questions? <a href="mailto:cme@acgme.org">cme@acgme.org</a>

## THANK YOU

**QUESTIONS?** 

