REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON ENDODONTICS EDUCATION TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION

Committee Chair: Dr. Bradford Johnson. Committee Members: Dr. James Johnson, Dr. William Johnson, Ms. Diane Neefe, and Dr. Roberta Pileggi. Dr. Ankur Patel was unable to participate. Guest (Open Session Only): Mr. Srini Varadarajan, assistant executive director, American Association of Endodontics. Staff Members: Ms. Jennifer Snow, manager, Advanced Dental Education and Mr. Christopher Castaneda, senior project assistant, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The meeting of the Review Committee on Endodontics Education (ENDO RC) was held on July 8, 2019 via telephone conference call.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO ENDODONTICS EDUCATION

Informational Report on Frequency of Citings of Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics (p. 700): The Review Committee on Endodontics Education (ENDO RC) considered the annual report on the frequency of citings of Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics implemented January 1, 2014. The ENDO RC noted that there was one (1) citing during the period covered by this report (January 1, 2014 through October 31, 2018).

Recommendation: This report is informational in nature and no action is required.


According to the Commission’s Policy on Assessing the Validity and Reliability of the Accreditation Standards, “the validity and reliability of accreditation standards will be assessed after they have been in effect for a period of time equal to the minimum academic length of the accredited program plus three years.” Thus, the validity and reliability of the standards for a two-year program will be assessed after five (5) years. In accordance with this policy, the Validity and Reliability Study for Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics was initiated in Spring 2019 with the results to be reviewed at the Summer 2019 meeting of the Commission. At the February 8, 2019 meeting of the Commission, revised Standards were adopted for implementation July 1, 2019. Therefore, the survey instrument used for this Study was developed using the July 1, 2019 Standards in order to provide the communities of interest with an opportunity to comment on all standards adopted by the Commission.
At this meeting, the Endodontics Review Committee (ENDO RC) reviewed the results of the survey, as well as written comments gathered (Appendix 2, Policy Report p. 701). It noted that a total of 5,515 individuals were invited by email to complete the online survey on April 25, 2019. In order to increase the response rate, follow-up mailings were administered to all non-respondents on April 6 and May 15, 2019. Data collection ended on May 20, 2019, yielding 521 respondents, for an overall adjusted response rate of 9.7% (excluding those whose email addresses were invalid).

The ENDO RC conducted an initial review of the report, noting the Standards identified by the communities of interest as “too demanding” and “not demanding.” Following review of the report, the ENDO RC concluded that, because of the amount of data provided in the report, and to ensure a thorough review of data and the comments received, further study of the survey data is warranted. Further, the ENDO RC believed a workgroup composed of the members of the ENDO RC should be formed to further study the report and identify Accreditation Standards, if any, which warrant revision. The ENDO RC noted that the workgroup would conduct meetings by tele-/web-conference; therefore, there would be no financial impact to the Commission. A report of the workgroup would be submitted for consideration at the Winter 2020 meeting of the ENDO RC and Commission.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation, through the Chair, appoint a workgroup composed of the members of the Endodontics Review Committee, to further study the findings of the Endodontics Validity and Reliability Study and identify Accreditation Standards, if any, which warrant revision with a report for consideration by the Endodontics Review Committee and Commission in Winter 2020.

**Consideration of Proposed Revision to Accreditation Standards Definition of Terms Related to Special Needs (p. 702):** The Review Committee on Endodontics Education (ENDO RC) reviewed a request from the Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA) to consider the standardization of a definition for “Special Needs” across the various Accreditation Standards under the Commission’s purview instead of using different iterations of the definition of special needs (Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 702).

The Endodontics Review Committee recalled that, in August 2018, the Review Committee determined and the Commission concurred that the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics adequately and appropriately address the education of students/residents to care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and that there was no need to modify the Standards at that time. The Committee noted that the proposed definition submitted by the SCDA included vulnerable older adults.

Following discussion, the Review Committee concluded that it could postpone action at this time and consider a definition for “Special Needs,” as it applies to advanced dental education programs in endodontics, during its study of the findings of the Endodontics Validity and Reliability Study for consideration in Winter 2020.
**Recommendation**: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Endodontics Review Committee to consider the proposed revision to the Accreditation Standards Definition of Terms submitted by the Special Care Dentistry Association through the course of the study of the findings of the Endodontics Validity and Reliability Study, with a report for consideration by the Endodontics Review Committee and Commission in Winter 2020.

**CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATING TO MORE THAN ONE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Matters related to more than one review committee are included in a separate report.

**CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO ACCREDITATION STATUS**

Matters related to accreditation status of programs are included in a separate report.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Bradford Johnson  
Chair, Review Committee on Endodontics Education