

# Pulmonary Hypertension Care Centers: Role of the Review Committee

Erika Berman Rosenzweig, MD  
Chair, PHCC Review Committee

The Pulmonary Hypertension Care Center (PHCC) program launch is well underway! A key component to the success of this program is the ability to provide a comprehensive review of the site applications, and to include in-depth interviews of program staff and administrators on site visits. The applications and site visits will be handled by members of the PHCC Review Committee, which comprises 23 members in addition to my position as Review Committee Chair, including 12 physicians and 11 allied health care professionals (Table 1). This summer, we

completed the PHCC Review Committee training program; committee members underwent comprehensive training on accreditation policy (Figure 1) and application review procedures. There were a total of 6 pilot site applications and site visits, which are now complete. More than half of the committee members had the opportunity to participate in at least one of the pilot site visits as part of their training. These visits also provided important feedback for the PHCC program and specified any needed adjustments to the Center criteria and the application

process before the official PHCC program launch. The review committee also held the first voting meetings for the pilot site accreditations to ensure the process was smooth and followed the highest standards toward fulfilling the goals of the PHCC initiative.

With the recent advances in the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), it has become even more important that Centers meet the needs of patients with respect to expertise, access to the most advanced targeted agents, and quality of care. As chair of the PHCC Review Committee,

Table 1. PHCC Review Committee Members

<b>Erika Berman Rosenzweig, MD (Chair)</b> Columbia University	
<b>Christine Archer-Chicko, MSN</b> Penn Presbyterian Medical Center	<b>David Badesch, MD</b> University of Colorado
<b>Raymond Benza, MD</b> Allegheny General Hospital	<b>Anna Brown, RN, ARNP</b> Vanderbilt University
<b>Bruce Brundage, MD</b> University of California, Los Angeles	<b>Michelle Cash, MSN, RN, APRN</b> Cincinnati Children's Hospital
<b>Louise Durst, RN</b> Mayo Clinic	<b>Harrison Farber, MD</b> Boston University
<b>Wendy Hill, RN, NP-C, MSN</b> West Los Angeles VA Healthcare Center	<b>Traci Houston, RN, MS</b> Johns Hopkins University
<b>Natalie Kitterman, BSN, RN</b> Intermountain Medical Center	<b>Laurie Lawler, RN</b> Brigham and Women's Hospital
<b>Juliana Liu, RN, MSN, ANP-C</b> Stanford University	<b>Harold Palevsky, MD</b> Penn Presbyterian Medical Center
<b>Abby Poms, RRT, RCP</b> Duke University	<b>Ivan Robbins, MD</b> Vanderbilt University
<b>Robert Schilz, DO, PhD</b> Case Western Reserve	<b>Victor Tapson, MD</b> Cedars-Sinai
<b>Glenna Traiger, RN, MSN</b> University of California, Los Angeles	<b>Tim Williamson, MD</b> University of Kansas Hospital
<b>Joel Wirth, MD</b> Maine Medical Center	<b>Delphine Yung, MD</b> Seattle Children's Hospital
<b>Dianne Zwicke, MD</b> Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center	

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I have been tasked with ensuring that the committee provides a standardized approach to evaluating applications upon receipt, and adheres to the process for conducting site visits and voting

provided by the PHCC Oversight Committee and the PHCC Implementation Task Force. I am extremely proud of the team that has been assembled and the intense level of

behind-the-scenes work already completed. The PHCC Review Committee is well prepared and eager for the official launch of the PHCC program.

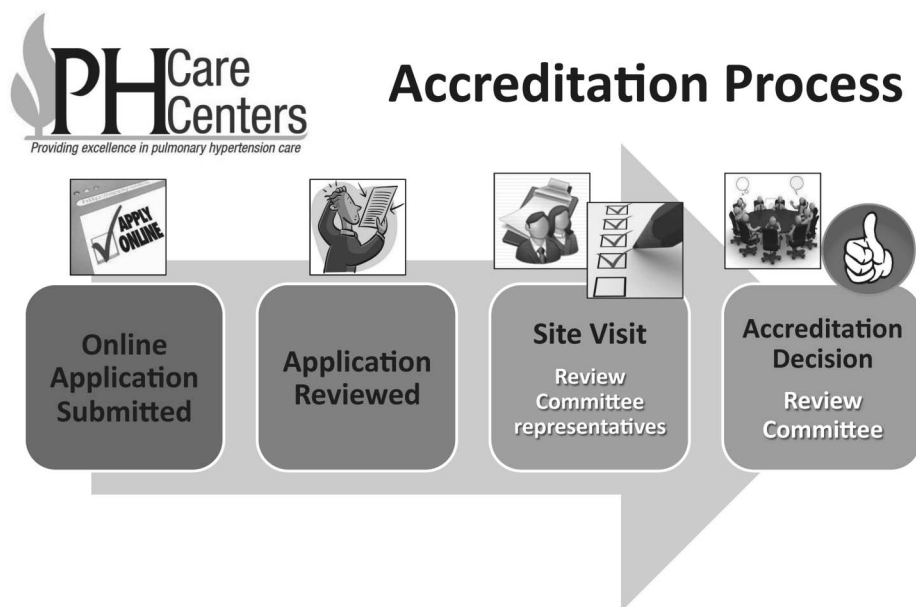


Figure 1. Diagram of accreditation process.

## GUEST EDITOR'S MEMO

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Pulmonary hypertension is a complicated disease with multi-pathway dysfunction such that the successful introduction of several medications in a relatively short period of time does not mean that research and development can be totally eclipsed by the enthusiasm behind the new agents. Additional novel molecules and treatment pathways are under study and Dr Preston provides a glimpse in this issue of *Advances* as to where the field of PH research is headed in the future.

Finally, as the PH community is welcoming new medications, the complexity that is caused by the availability of these same agents cannot be overlooked. How is a particular medication selected? Who should be involved in the decision making? Is the drug worth the cost? How do we monitor response to therapy? These are all questions that are discussed by the roundtable participants, Dr Studer in the "Ask the Expert" column, and by Drs Raina and Benza in their article.

Although my first foray into drug development was less than successful, it taught me the importance of tenacity. Study the pathway, find the molecule, make the medication, treat the patient, and cure the disease.

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