

# Timeline: The Evolution of Fellowship Training in Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology

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## ABSTRACT

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) granted accreditation to the first 5 Procedural Dermatology Fellowship Training Programs in 2004.

The name of the training program was changed from Procedural Dermatology to Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology by the ACGME/Residency Review Committee for Dermatology in 2014. The American Board of Dermatology/American Board of Medical Specialties conducted the first certification examination in Micrographic Dermatology Surgery in October 2021. This article chronicles the history and development of the subspecialty.

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## INTRODUCTION

The first 1-year training program in Mohs Surgery was established by Dr Perry Robins at NYU in 1970 (Table 1). Several other training programs were established in the 1970s, including programs at the Cleveland Clinic and UCSF. In 1982, Dr Ed Krull, Chair of the Dept of Dermatology at Henry Ford Hospital, developed the Core Curriculum for Dermatologic Surgery. This document was created to codify the need for surgical experience in all dermatology residency programs and to standardize the training.

In 1983, as the number of 1-year training programs in Mohs Surgery continued to increase, the leadership of the American College of Chemosurgery (later to become the American College of Mohs Surgery) felt that standards should be required for Mohs Surgery Fellowship Training Programs. The Fellowship Training Committee (FTC) of the College (Dr Philip L. Bailin-Chair, Dr Rex Amonette, Dr Ted Tromovitch, and Dr. Gerald Bernstein) met in San Francisco to create structure and requirements for 1-year fellowship training programs. The training requirements were approved by the College Board of Directors, and a formal 1-year

fellowship approval process began in 1983. The FTC required site-visits beginning in 1997 in order to more thoroughly assess the structure and quality of training at each program.

Dr Krull was appointed to the Accreditation Committee for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Dermatology Residency Review Committee (RRC) in 1984. He served as chair of the RRC from 1987 to 1994. Dr Krull directed a revision of the Core Curriculum for Dermatologic Surgery in 1987 to reflect the changes in dermatologic practice.

In 1990, the RRC, under Dr Krull's leadership, received approval from ACGME for special training requirements for all dermatology residency programs to include complex closures, flaps, grafts, laser surgery, and nail surgery. ACGME also instituted the requirement for a designated surgical program director for each dermatology residency program.

By 1991, 37 Mohs Surgery Training programs had been established under the approval program of the American College of Mohs Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology (the name

**TABLE 1.****Timeline: The Evolution of Fellowship Training in Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology**

1970	First 1-year training program in Mohs Surgery is established at NYU.
1983	First 1-year Mohs Surgery Fellowship Training Program is approved by American College of Chemosurgery (later to become the American College of Mohs Surgery). Site visits are later required to maintain approval status.
1990	The Residency Review Committee for Dermatology (RRC), chaired by Dr. Ed Krull, receives approval from The Accreditation Committee for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for special training requirements for all dermatology residency programs to include complex closures, flaps, grafts, laser surgery, and nail surgery. ACGME also approves the requirement of a designated surgical program director for each dermatology residency program.
1991	Dermatology RRC gives testimony before the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Committee on Certification (COCERT), supporting the application for a new specialty certificate in Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology. The application is denied by COCERT.
2004	ACGME accredits the first 5 1-year fellowship training programs in Procedural Dermatology. Transition from existing American College of Mohs Surgery Fellowship Training Programs to ACGME accreditation is mandated by 2014.
Sept. 26 2014	ACGME votes to change name of "Procedural Dermatology Fellowship Training Programs" to "Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology" as recommended by Dermatology RRC.
2018	The American Board of Dermatology receives approval from ABMS for board certification in Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery (MDS)
2021	The first MDS board certification exam is administered by ABD/ABMS.

taken by the College in 1988). Dr Krull's vision was to have the training programs accredited by ACGME, and ultimately have trainees earn board certification by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS).

In 1991, background materials were prepared, and Dr Krull requested Dr C. William Hanke and Dr. Martin Braun to give testimony before the ABMS Committee on Certification (COCERT) supporting the application for a new specialty certificate in Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology. The application was denied by COCERT.

During the remainder of his time as chair of the RRC, Dr Krull continued his quest for ACGME accreditation of Mohs Surgery fellowships and ABMS specialty recognition; but a long-term strategy would be required. Dr Randall Roenigk was appointed Chair of the Dermatology RRC in 1999. After considerable negotiation and effort by Dr Roenigk, the ACGME voted to accredit 1-year training programs in Procedural Dermatology in 2004. Advocates for 2004 ACGME approval for Procedural Dermatology who gave testimony before the Program Requirement (PR) Committee of ACGME were Dr Abel Torres, Dr Kenny Greer, Dr Randall Roenigk, and Dr Terry Barrett. As part of the agreement, the programs that had been approved by the College would transition to ACGME accreditation by 2014. Five programs were initially approved in 2004.

The College FTC (Dr Suzanne Olbricht-Chair) undertook management of the transition of Fellowship programs from ACMS approval to ACGME accreditation.<sup>1</sup> This involved establishment of a timeline, the development of resources, and the initiation of networking opportunities to assist program directors in the process.

It became clear that the fellowship name, "Procedural Dermatology," needed to be changed in order to gain the support of dermatologists as well as other specialties. The FTC led the program directors in problem-solving this challenge, which ultimately resulted in the name "Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology."

On September 26, 2014, the Dermatology RRC provided testimony before the ACGME Committee on Requirements (COR) requesting approval for revised descriptions of various flaps performed in Procedural Dermatology Fellowship Training Programs. The RRC made an additional request to change the fellowship name from Procedural Dermatology to Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology (MSDO). MSDO was felt to be a more appropriate descriptive term for the sub-specialty. After considerable discussion, COR voted unanimously for both requests. Advocates who gave testimony for the 2014 ACGME Procedural Dermatology name change to MSDO at the PR Committee of ACGME were Dr Nicole Owens, Dr C. William Hanke, and Dr Randall Roenigk. A fire in the control tower at O'Hare International Airport on September 26, 2014 caused many flight cancellations. Several additional advocates for these changes, including Dr John Zitelli and Dr Tom Stasko, were unable to travel and gave testimony to the committee by phone. The ACGME Board of Directors voted to approve the requests on September 28, 2014. When the transition from College oversight to ACGME accreditation for US-based programs was complete in 2014, 63 approved MSDO fellowship training programs were operational.

By 2018, 77 MSDO fellowship training programs had received accreditation by ACGME.<sup>2</sup> That year the American Board of Dermatology received approval from ABMS for certification

in Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery (MDS). In-person advocates for ABMS COCERT approval of MDS were Dr Tom Horn, Dr Lela Lee, and Dr Randall Roenigk. Approximately 20 individuals testified in favor, and 4 against, all by video. In October 2021, the first MDS board certification examination was administered by ABD/ABMS.<sup>3-4</sup>

### CONCLUSION

In summary, 13 years (1991-2004) were required to achieve ACGME accreditation of fellowship training and 30 years (1991-2021) were required to achieve board certification of trainees by ABMS/ABD.

### DISCLOSURES

The authors have no disclosures to declare.

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