



EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES

FAIMER®

Foundation for Advancement of International
Medical Education and Research

Accreditation of Undergraduate Medical Education: Benefits and Challenges

John (Jack) R. Boulet, PhD FSSH

Vice President, Research and Data Resources
ECFMG/ FAIMER

AAHCI MENA Regional Conference, Beirut, Lebanon
Transformation of Medical Education in the New Era
September, 2018

Declarations

- Much of the content of this talk was obtained from David Gordon, FRCP FMedSci, President, WFME
- I have served on a site visit team for the recognition of an accrediting authority, but not on medical school review team
- I work for ECFMG (2023 Accreditation mandate)

Overview

- History of accreditation of medical schools
- Brief overview of WFME and FAIMER
 - WFME standards
 - World Directory of Medical Schools
 - How can we make it more useful
- Why Accreditation?
 - Accreditation research
- The process of accreditation
 - Challenges and opportunities
- Current status of UGME accreditation world wide



History

- National accreditation of medical institutions in U.S. commenced in 1847
 - Organization of American Medical Association of Philadelphia
- Accreditation can apply to UGME, PGME, Hospitals, CME, Simulation Centres, ...
 - <http://www.acgme.org/About-Us/Overview/History-of-Medical-Education>

ac·cred·i·ta·tion *noun*

the formal evaluation of an organization or program against accepted criteria or standards.

About WFME

- Enhancing the quality of medical education worldwide
- In official relation with the World Health Organization (WHO) as the non-state actor representing medical education and medical schools worldwide
- Founded by the World Medical Association (WMA) and WHO in 1972
- Promotes standards and sharing good practice

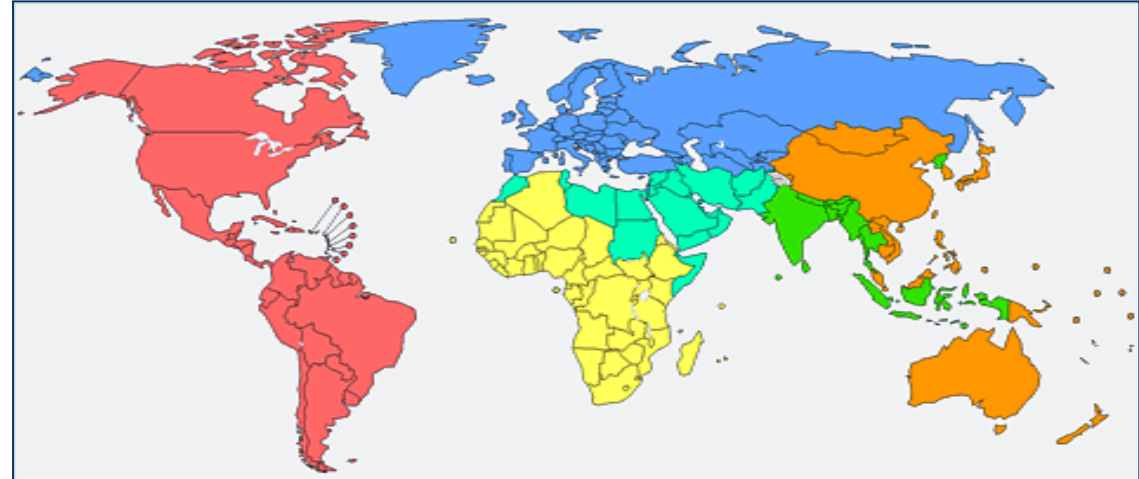


About WFME (2)

- Three main programmes (among many others)
 - Standards in medical education (BME, PG and CPD)
 - *World Directory of Medical Schools*
 - Promotion of accreditation and the Recognition of Accreditation Programme
- **WFME is primarily concerned with the quality, management, organisation and support of medical education.**

Regional members of WFME

Western Pacific Association
for Medical Education



WFME Standards for Medical Education: Origin, outcome, and future

- “The purpose [of the standards programme] is to provide a mechanism for quality improvement in medical education, in a global context, to be applied by institutions, organisations and national authorities responsible for medical education”



WFME Standards for Medical Education

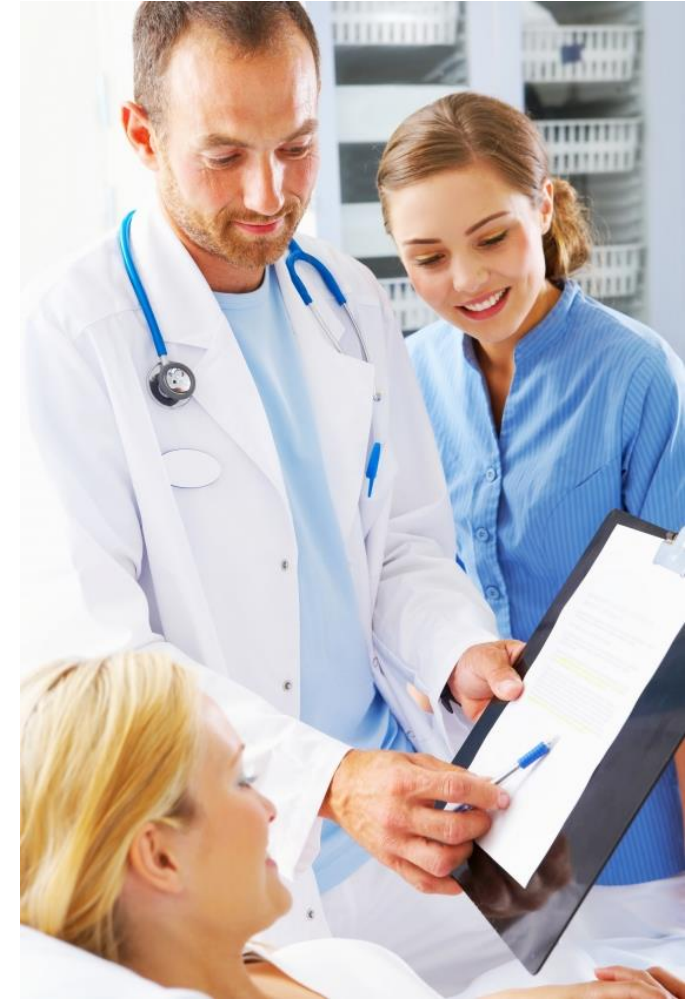
Origin, Outcome and Future

- Not what should be taught and learned,
 - more about to what standard should it be taught, and to what standard it should it be learned?
- Outcomes?
 - many, but in particular, help to develop accreditation
- Future?
 - an emphasis on practicality, and on contextual relevance



“Explanatory Note to Guide the use of Standards”

- The standards are based on our current understanding of fundamental principles and best practices in designing, maintaining, and enhancing medical education programmes
- Standards are intended to:
 - guide medical education programme development and evaluation
 - facilitate diagnosis of strengths and weaknesses relating to the medical education programme
 - to stimulate quality improvement



“Explanatory Note to Guide the use of Standards”



- Each institution or regulator should review the relevant standards and develop a version of them that is appropriate to the local context.
 - Not all standards will have application in every setting
- It is possible for a medical school to receive a satisfactory overall evaluation and maintain accreditation (where appropriate) without necessarily meeting every standard and sub-standard

The Myths About the WFME Standards for Medical Education

- “The WFME standards require the medical course to last six years”
- “The WFME standards require the medical course to be integrated”
- “The WFME standards require the medical course to be modular”
 - The WFME standards are not a rigid rule book. They are a guide to good practice, to be adapted and developed for local, context-specific, use



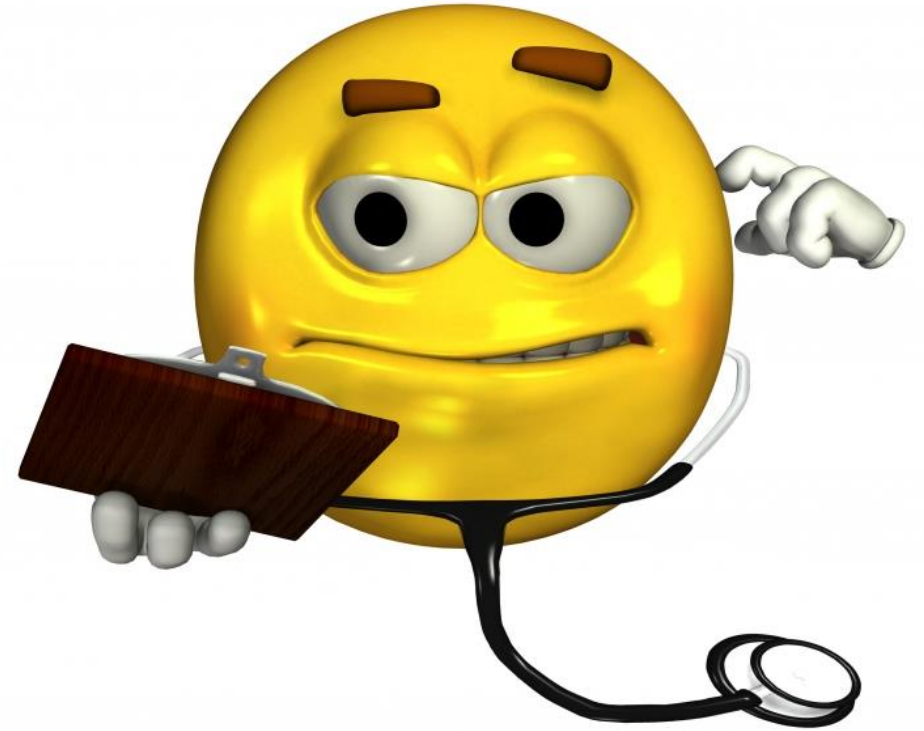
Additional Accreditation Myths

- “A medical school has to be in WDMS for WFME to recognise its accreditation”
- “Nothing much is going on in the WFME recognition of accreditation programme”
- “Every country will be recognised in the WFME programme by 2023”



Why Bother Going Through all the Effort?

- Maintain standards and improve quality in medical education worldwide, at a time of rapid growth and change



Why Accreditation?

- To verify that medical schools are competent in the delivery of medical education
 - Are medical schools educating doctors fit to serve the needs of the population where they function?



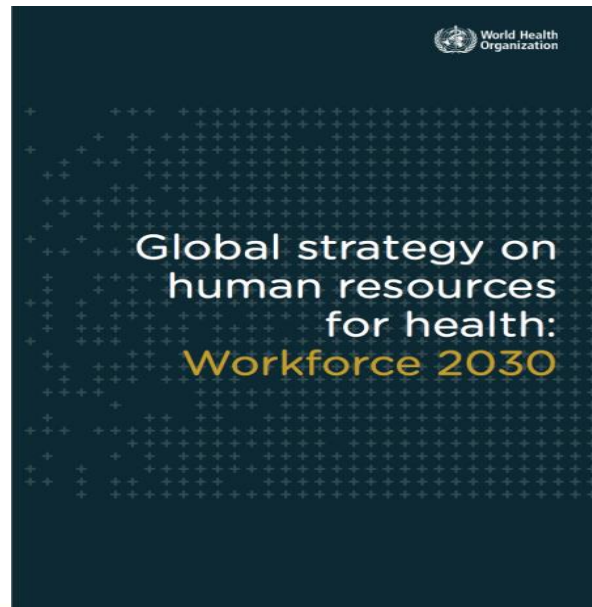
Conceptual Model

- Individual
 - “assessment drives learning”
- Programme
 - “accreditation drives quality”



Why Accreditation? (2)

- Objective 1.1 of the WHO (2016) Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030 is that ‘by 2020, all countries will have established accreditation mechanisms for health training institutions.’
- IAMRA has called for accreditation in all countries



STATEMENT Accreditation of Medical Education Programs

Scope

1. This statement is limited to the accreditation of medical education programs that provide basic medical education and award an undergraduate or graduate degree in medicine that enables the graduate to seek registration as a medical practitioner.

Definition

2. Accreditation is the process by which a credible, independent body assesses the quality of a medical education program to provide assurance that it produces graduates that are competent to practise safely and effectively under supervision as interns (or equivalent), and have been provided with an appropriate foundation for lifelong learning and further training in any branch of medicine.

Purpose

3. IAMRA has as one of its strategic goals, to 'explore potential roles for IAMRA in providing support to members to achieve high standards for the education of doctors through appropriate accreditation processes.'

4. The purpose of this statement is to outline an accreditation framework and to encourage Members to utilise accreditation systems to ensure the provision of high quality medical education, identify inadequate medical education programs, assist education providers to improve the quality of their programs and ultimately, protect patients.

Introduction

5. Worldwide, there has been a rapid expansion in the number of medical education programs, increasing diversity in the bodies offering these programs and innovations in the way programs are delivered. Medical education is provided in both the government and private sectors and there is potential for the quality of the programs to vary considerably, even within a country. The *World Directory of Medical Schools*¹ lists medical education programs worldwide. Currently, there are nearly 3000 medical schools², with the number of new medical schools increasing at a rate of approximately 5-10% per year.

¹ The *World Directory of Medical Schools* has been developed through a partnership between the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) and the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER). The *World Directory* provides a comprehensive compilation of the information previously contained in the *IMED* and *Avicenna* directories.

² The *World Directory of Medical Schools* notes that 'the listing of a medical school in the *World Directory of Medical Schools* does not denote recognition, accreditation, or endorsement by the *World Directory of Medical Schools* or by the partner organizations leading this venture, the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) and the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER).'

Reasons for Accreditation (1)

- The main reason is to enhance the quality of medical education, by verifying that medical schools are competent in the delivery of medical education, and that medical education programmes are suitable.
 - This is to ensure that medical schools are educating doctors fit to serve the needs of the population where they function
- A secondary reason is to demonstrate to outside organisations and territories that the medical schools accredited are competent, and producing doctors at an accepted international standard

Reasons for Accreditation (2)

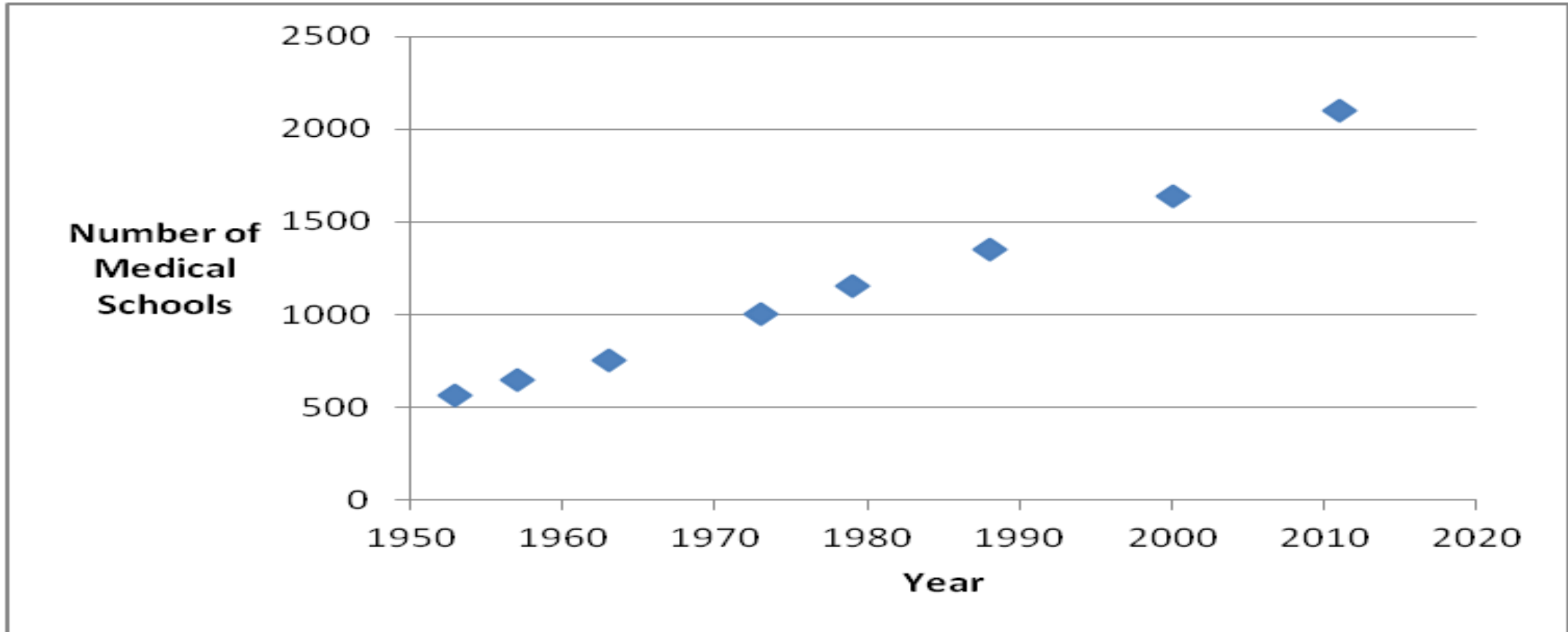
- **ECFMG 2010 Board Resolution**

Applicants for ECFMG Certification must graduate from a medical school that has been “appropriately accredited,” and the accrediting agency must be “recognized.”

Takes effect in 2023

“Accreditation 2023”

Impetus for 2023 ...



World Directory of Medical Schools

www.wdoms.org

The *World Directory* aims to include all medical schools:

- Offering a complete programme of instruction
- Awarding basic medical qualification
- Recognised by the government of their host country
- Existing and historical
- A joint venture of WFME and FAIMER



World Directory of Medical Schools

www.wdoms.org



The *World Directory* is **NOT**:

- Accredited schools only
- An indicator of quality or endorsement, by WFME, FAIMER, WHO or anyone
- Therefore, your school may be very bad: but still included in *WDoMS*
- Inclusion in *WDoMS* is not a measure of quality

[Home](#) > [Search](#)

Search the World Directory

Country: Include Non-UN Member States Medical School Name: City: Operational:

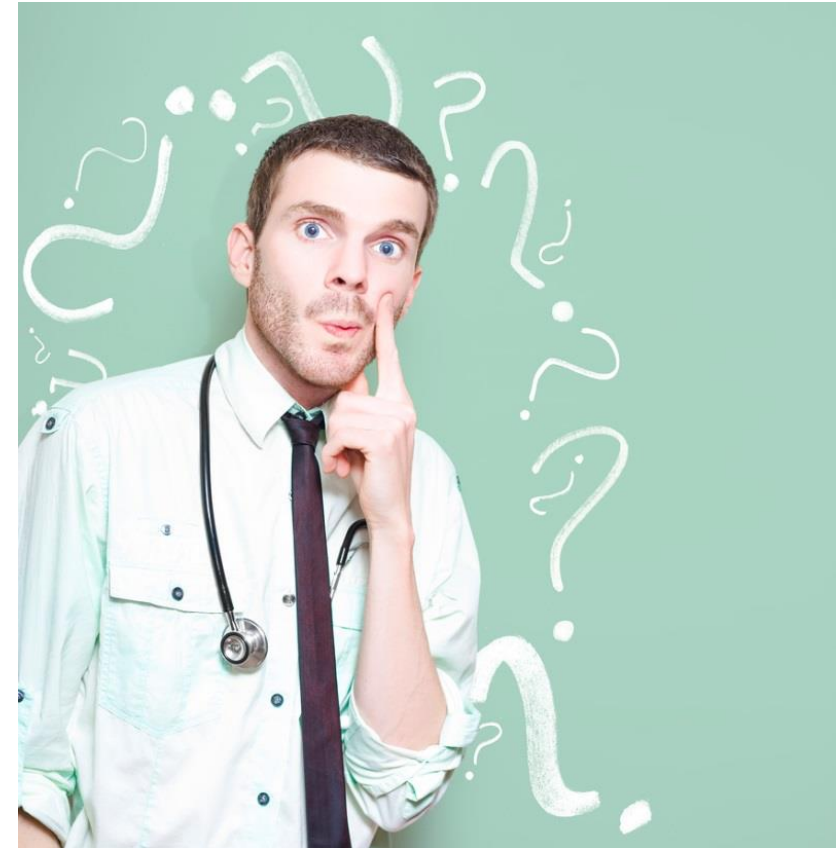
Total Records Found: 7

Pages: of 1

Country Name	Medical School Name	City Name
Lebanon	American University of Beirut Faculty of Medicine	Beirut
Lebanon	Beirut Arab University Faculty of Medicine	Beirut
Lebanon	LAU Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine	Byblos
Lebanon	Lebanese University Faculty of Medical Sciences	Beirut
Lebanon	University of Balamand Faculty of Medicine and Medical Sciences	Beirut
Lebanon	Université Saint Esprit de Kaslik Faculté de Médecine et des Sciences Médicales	Jounieh
Lebanon	Université Saint-Joseph Faculté de Médecine	Beirut

Rationale for Evaluation of Accreditation

- The existence of an accreditation system alone is not enough
- It may be no good! ... and not guarantee that the system will result in credible decisions on the quality of programmes in medical education
- The rapid expansion in the number of medical schools worldwide has created a growing market for accreditation
 - Accreditation “mills”
- Development of the WFME Recognition of Accreditation Programme



Accreditation Research

- It is difficult to quantify the value of accreditation
 - Randomized control trial?
 - Outcome measures?
- Several studies have suggested a positive impact of accreditation
 - Medical school processes
 - Performance of students/ graduates



Recognition Programme Now

- Process using the model of accreditation
 - Medicine-specific
 - Self-evaluation
 - Site visit observation
 - Recognition Committee
- Pre-defined criteria
 - 2005 WHO/WFME policy on accreditation
 - Criteria based on an expert consensus of good practice
 - Updated 2018



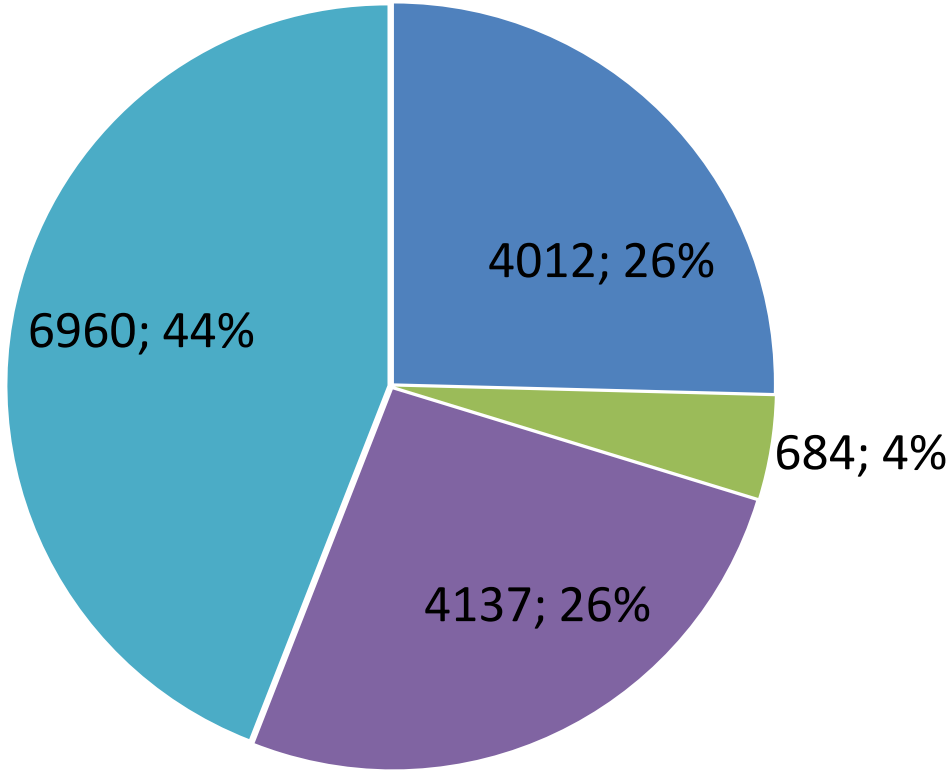
Agencies Recognised, Agencies in Progress

- 10 agencies recognised and on the website
- 32 others on the list
 - 14 with site visit completed, or SV in progress, or SV date certain, or SV date agreed in principle
 - 6 close to agreeing SV date
 - 12 at earlier stages



Accreditation and ECFMG 2023

- Total 2017 Applicants = 15,793



- 2017 Applicants Who Graduated from Medical Schools Accredited by WFME Recognized Agencies
- 2017 Applicants Who Graduated from Medical Schools Accredited by Agencies in WFME Review Process
- 2017 Applicants Who Graduated from Medical Schools Accredited by Agencies that Initiated Application or in Discussion with WFME
- All Other 2017 Applicants

Questions?

