



Annual Meeting of AMA IMG Section
Keynote Address

*Accreditation of International Medical
Schools and other current ECFMG
Initiatives*

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Medical Education: Quality Standards

- Awarding of Degrees (by training institution)
- Licensure (by responsible jurisdiction)
- Accreditation (for institutions/programs)
- Certification (for individuals)
- Credentialing (for individuals)



Medical Education Standards (cont.)

- Administered differently in different countries:
 - Voluntary/Mandatory
 - Controlled by the Profession
 - Controlled by the Government (Ministry of Health or Ministry of Education)
 - Some functions controlled by the Government and some by the Profession



International Medical Standards

Need to ensure harmonization in quality across borders:

- The need for accreditation of medical schools is becoming more urgent
 - Accreditation needs to be local or regional, but must be based on global, universally accepted standards
- Accreditation of GME programs
- Certification
- Licensure



Current Health Care Challenges Impacting On International Medical Education

- Increase in physician mobility
 - Medical school attendance
 - GME
 - Licensure and practice
- Medical tourism
- Rapid increase in number of medical schools around the world



Current Health Care Challenges Impacting On International Medical Education

- Many countries with medical school growth rates greater than 25% since 2002:

	# old	# new	% increase
• Brazil	104	61	58.7%
• India	198	71	35.9%
• Malaysia	10	4	40.0%
• Pakistan	32	14	43.8%
• Australia	11	8	72.7%
• Chile	14	4	28.6%
• Ecuador	11	3	27.3%
• Lebanon	5	2	40.0%
• Philippines	31	8	25.8%
• South Africa	8	2	25.0%



Definition

Accreditation is a process by which a designated authority reviews and evaluates an educational institution or program against a clearly defined set of standards



Who Accredits?

- Governmental entity
 - Often a ministry of health or education

- Independent agencies
 - Often professional groups
 - Sometimes the independent agency acts on behalf of the government
 - Granted authority to make accrediting decisions
 - Recommends decisions to the government



What Is Accredited?

- Institutional accreditation
 - Focuses on the quality of the institution as a whole (e.g., university)

- Program accreditation
 - Focuses on the quality of the specific program such as medicine or nursing

- Hybrid model
 - In the US, both institutional and program accreditation are required



Is Accreditation Mandatory?

- Varies by country and accrediting body within a country

- Voluntary is not always voluntary
 - In the U.S., LCME accreditation is required for:
 - Federal grants and loans
 - Admission to the US licensing exams
 - Admission to accredited postgraduate training
 - Admission to specialty board certification



What Is The Usual Process For Accreditation?

- Guided self-study
- External review and site visit by a peer committee
- Accreditation decision based on self-study and visit
 - Sometimes a recommendation to ministry
- Decision is disseminated
- Process is repeated periodically (e.g., 4-8 years)



ECFMG and Accreditation of International Medical Schools

- ECFMG Board announced last September an addition (effective in twelve years – 2023) to the list of requirements for certifying an International Medical Graduate (IMG) for entry into US GME: Graduation from an accredited international medical school
- The new requirement could be helpful to US State Licensing Boards interested in the quality of individual international medical schools, and might help obviate a need for boards to establish their own lists of “*acceptable*” medical schools



Current Requirements for ECFMG Certification

■ Examination Requirements

USMLE – U. S. Medical Licensing Examination:

- Step 1
 - Step 2, Clinical Knowledge (CK)
 - Step 2, Clinical Skills (CS)

■ Credential Requirements

- IMED listed medical school
- Minimum four-year curriculum
- Final medical diploma
- Primary-source verified diploma and transcript



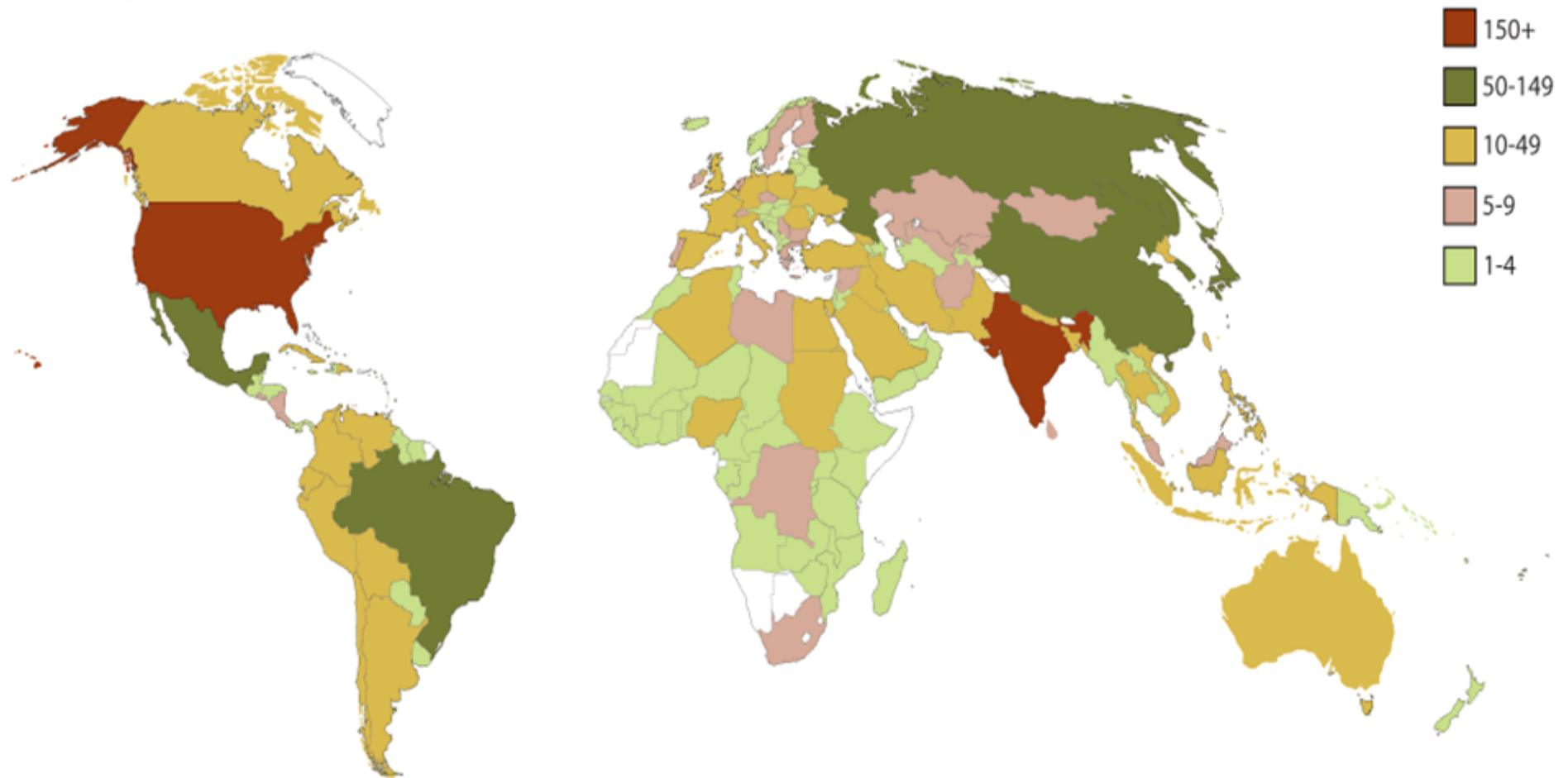
The International Medical Education Directory (IMED)

- Free, web-based resource
- Accurate and up-to-date source about international medical schools that are recognized by the appropriate government agency in the countries where the medical schools are located
- Introduced in 2002 by the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER)
- www.faimer.org



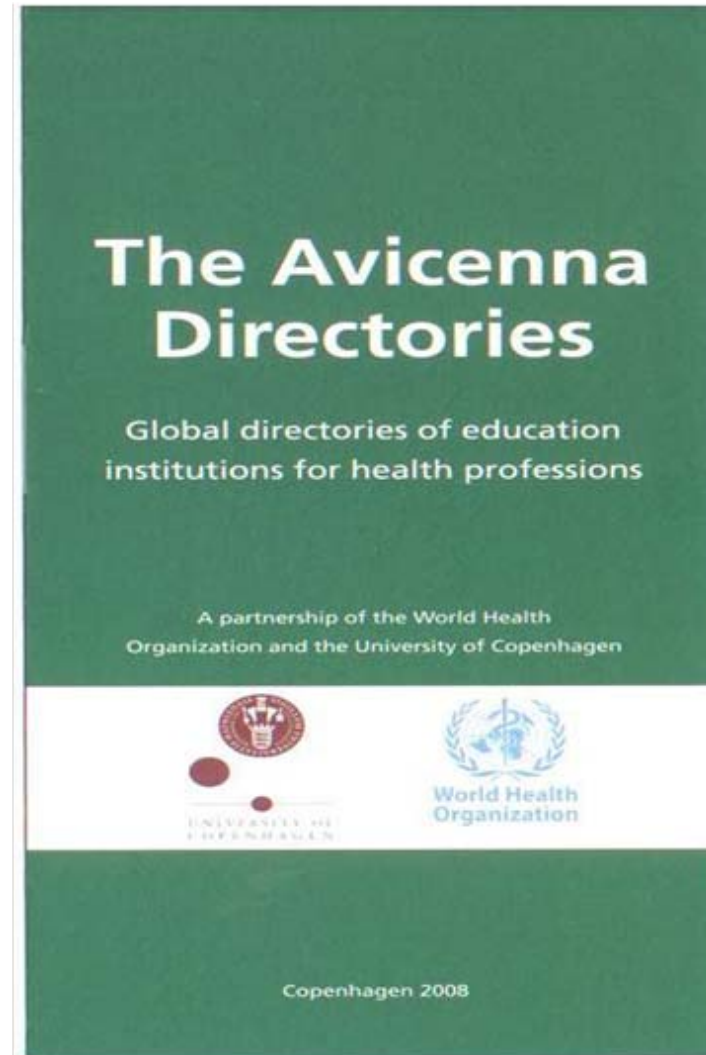
The *International Medical Education Directory (IMED)*

IMED Lists 2,254 medical schools worldwide



Data current as of July 28, 2009

The AVICENNA Directories



WFME Philadelphia
December 2010



The New World Directory of Medical Schools

A partnership between WFME and FAIMER to merge the Avicenna and IMED directories is under active and serious consideration



ECFMG and Accreditation of International Medical Schools (cont.)

- “To satisfy this new requirement, the physician’s medical school must be accredited through a formal process that uses criteria comparable to those established for U.S. medical schools by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) or that uses other globally accepted criteria, such as those put forth by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME).”



Proposed Global Accreditation Mechanism

- WFME reviews and “recognizes” Regional or National Accrediting Agencies for compliance with its standards
 - First pilot: **CAAM, 2011**
- Regional or National Agencies accredit individual schools
- Accreditation of an international medical school by an agency recognized by WFME, will meet the new ECFMG requirement for certification



WFME Global Standards

- Trilogy of standards for UME/GME/CME
- Basic level for accreditation and quality development
- Modified for different countries





What Can ECFMG And FAIMER Do Next?

ECFMG and FAIMER are committed to working with WFME and other partners and colleagues around the world to improve health care by improving medical education—to include helping to develop and implement universally accepted global medical education standards



Electronic Repository of International Credentials (EPIC)

- Primary-source verification – a “best practice”-- utilizes ECFMG’s recognized expertise in verifying medical credentials
- Provides physicians with a secure repository of primary-source verified medical credentials
- On-line service with 24/7 access
- Reports of verified medical credentials sent to medical regulatory authorities and other organizations
- Due to launch December 1, 2011



ECFMG Certificate Holders Office (ECHO)

Needs of ECFMG certified IMGs extend beyond receipt of ECFMG Certificate

- Personal and professional challenges
- Relocating to U.S.
- Acculturation issues
- Navigating U.S. GME system
- Immigration options
- Medical licensure and specialty certification questions

ECHO extends ECFMG services to IMGs beyond ECFMG Certification

- Continuing development of ECFMG's current Acculturation Program
- Drawing on ECFMG's existing programs (ERAS, EVSP, CVS) to shape and consolidate this expertise for benefit of physicians beyond ECFMG Certification.
- Collaborating with other organizations to broaden offerings while preventing duplication of services
- Maintaining contact with IMGs throughout their careers
- Fostering a sense of community among IMGs



THANK YOU!

Questions?

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