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Two Milestones Reached in 2012 in Development of System for International Accreditation

In September 2010, ECFMG announced that, effective in 2023, physicians applying for ECFMG Certification will be required to graduate from a medical school that has been appropriately accredited. To satisfy this requirement, the physician's medical school must be accredited through a formal process that uses criteria comparable to those established by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) or other globally accepted criteria, such as those put forth by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME).

ECFMG believes that this additional requirement for ECFMG Certification will stimulate the development of a meaningful, universally accepted system of accreditation for undergraduate medical education outside the United States and Canada. Recognizing, however, that a formal accreditation process that utilizes such globally accepted criteria does not currently exist, this requirement is not scheduled to take effect until 2023.

To stimulate efforts to develop such international accreditation, WFME and the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER[®]) worked in collaboration throughout 2011 to develop a process for evaluating and recognizing accrediting agencies. The WFME-FAIMER team developed proposals for an application, recognition criteria, and policies and procedures to support the recognition of accrediting agencies. Graduates of medical schools accredited by an agency recognized by the resulting process would meet the new ECFMG requirement.

As reported on July 5, 2012 in [*Pilot Advances ECFMG's Efforts to Stimulate International Accreditation*](#), WFME and FAIMER launched a pilot program in 2011 through which WFME evaluated the application for recognition of the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP). The WFME-FAIMER team evaluated CAAM-HP's application for recognition; observed the agency as it conducted a site visit of a medical school seeking accreditation; monitored an accreditation decision meeting; and wrote a report detailing the agency's compliance with the recognition criteria.

In 2012, the WFME-FAIMER collaboration yielded two important decisions.

- After reviewing the report and proposals of the WFME-FAIMER team, the WFME Executive Council approved its Programme for Recognition of Accreditation Agencies, promulgating the process and procedures that it will use going forward in evaluating accrediting agencies for possible recognition.
- The WFME Recognition Committee granted recognition to CAAM-HP, the first accrediting agency reviewed under the new process. As stated in the *WFME Policy on the Recognition of Accrediting Agencies*, "Recognition of an accrediting agency by the WFME Recognition Committee confers the understanding that an agency has been deemed to be credible in its policies and procedures to assure the quality of medical education in the programmes and schools that it accredits."

Please monitor the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org/accreditation for additional updates.