Update on International Activities: ECFMG, ACGME-I and ABMS-I

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About ECFMG®

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)

• Established in 1956

• Non-profit, non-governmental

• Members = major US organizations responsible for medical education, training, and regulation

• Mission includes promoting quality health care and medical education worldwide
About FAIMER®

Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER)

• Established in 2000

• Non-profit foundation of ECFMG

• Enhances world health through education
  o Trains health professions educators
  o Conducts research
  o Builds data resources on medical education systems
ECFMG & FAIMER: Overview of International Activities

Enhancing International Medical Education

• Promoting educational exchange
• Stimulating global standards
• Educating the educators

Supporting Evaluation of Physician Qualifications

• Primary-source verification of physician credentials

Informing Policy

• ECFMG Response to Recent Immigration Developments
• FAIMER Research and Data Resources
Enhancing International Medical Education

ECFMG’s GEMx
ECFMG’s Medical School Accreditation Initiative
FAIMER’s Education Programs
ECFMG’s GEMx

• Facilitates educational exchange in medicine and other health professions

• Centralized, web-based system for applications and program management

• A network of participating institutions means more exchange opportunities for many students

• No cost to students; additional financial assistance

• Supports exchanges at global and regional levels
ECFMG’s GEMx

Global exchanges among 40+ institutions worldwide
ECFMG’s GEMx

Partnering with regional exchange networks in:

**Africa**
- African Forum for Research and Education in Health (AFREhealth)
- College of Ophthalmology of Eastern Central and Southern Africa
- Eastern Africa Health Professions Educators’ Association
- South-South Exchange Initiative

**Latin America**
- Latin American Postgraduate Exchange Network
ECFMG’s GEMx

Addresses:

• Need for greater international perspectives in medical education and health care
• Financial challenges faced by students who undertake exchanges
• Institutional needs for infrastructure and connections
ECFMG’s Medical School Accreditation Initiative

• In 2010, ECFMG’s Board of Trustees decided that, beginning in 2023, to be eligible for ECFMG Certification applicants must graduate from a medical school that has been “appropriately accredited.”

• ECFMG has determined that a medical school is appropriately accredited if the school has been accredited by an agency that is recognized by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) through WFME’s Programme for Recognition of Accrediting Agencies.
ECFMG’s Medical School Accreditation Initiative

Recognizing the Accreditors

• WFME recognizes accrediting agency ➔

• Accrediting agency accredits medical school ➔

• ✓ Graduates of medical school meet ECFMG’s accreditation requirement
ECFMG’s Medical School Accreditation Initiative

WFME recognition status:

- 6 accrediting agencies recognized
- 17 accrediting agencies in process/in discussions with WFME
- 10 accrediting agencies in discussions with WFME but with more distant plans
ECFMG’s Medical School Accreditation Initiative

Addresses need to:

• Catalyze international accreditation efforts

• Develop universally accepted standards for evaluating undergraduate medical education

• Enhance quality of medical education

• Protect the public
FAIMER’s Education Programs

- For health professions educators; 1400+ trained worldwide!
- Regional Institutes and Education Centers catalyze and sustain local curricular improvement
- Distance Learning in accreditation and assessment, in partnership with Keele University and CenMEDIC in UK
- Fellowships to earn master’s degrees in health professions education
- Alignment of educational programs to create pathways for development of outstanding leaders
FAIMER’s Education Programs

Address need for:

• Training in education methods, leadership and management, education scholarship and research, and project management and evaluation

• Relevance to local education and health care situations

• Local networks of education experts to create and sustain curricular enhancement
Supporting Evaluation of Physician Qualifications

ECFMG’s Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials (EPIC)
ECFMG’s EPIC

• Web-based platform for primary-source verification (PSV) of authenticity of physician credentials (medical education, postgraduate training, and registration/licensure)

• Brings ECFMG’s PSV expertise to organizations that evaluate physicians. NO COST access for the world’s:
  o Medical regulatory authorities
  o Hospitals
  o Medical education and training institutions

• Also allows physicians to establish a pre-verified portfolio of credentials
ECFMG’s EPIC

• Current medical regulatory clients:
  o 11 medical regulatory authorities worldwide
    ▪ Africa, Asia-Pacific, Caribbean, Europe, United States

• ECFMG is in discussions with several additional international medical regulatory authorities
ECFMG’s EPIC

Addresses need to:

• Ensure that physicians crossing borders are qualified
  
  o Migration of students for medical education
  
  o Migration of physicians to fill demand for health care providers, escape conflict situations
  
  o Medical tourism and volunteerism

• Ensure all organizations can incorporate PSV—a best practice—into their physician evaluation process, regardless of resources

• Protect the public
Informing Policy

ECFMG Response to Recent Immigration Developments
FAIMER Research and Data Resources
ECFMG Response to Recent Immigration Developments

Assess and educate on impact on US GME and health care:

ECFMG Certification

- 3,500+ ECFMG-certified foreign-national international medical graduates (IMGs) enter US GME annually
- One-quarter of all physicians in training and practice in US are ECFMG-certified IMGs
- Tend to serve in primary-care specialties and to practice in underserved areas
ECFMG J-1 Visa Sponsorship

- Educational and cultural exchange
- ECFMG sponsors 10,000+ physicians annually for US clinical training

Those who return home after US training:
  - Build health workforce capacity in other countries
  - Provide physicians in much-needed medical specialties in their countries
FAIMER’s Research and Data Resources

Research

• Goal = understand the complex issues related to the supply of, training of, and need for physicians and other health care workers in various regions around the world

• Some concentrations:
  o International migration of physicians
  o Characteristics and quality of international medical education programs
  o Role and contributions of IMGs in US physician workforce
  o Quality of care provided by IMGs
Data Resources

• Goal = to be the single best source of data on international medical schools and their graduates

• Cover undergraduate and postgraduate medical education, accreditting agencies, and advanced degree programs in health professions education

• Freely available at www.faimer.org

FAIMER, with WFME, maintains the World Directory of Medical Schools, a free resource on more than 3,000 medical schools worldwide
Information

www.ecfmg.org  |  www.faimer.org

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