

**Accreditation of International  
Medical Schools:  
An Update from FAIMER and CAAM-HP**

FSMB Web Seminar Series

June 18, 2009

# Today's Speakers

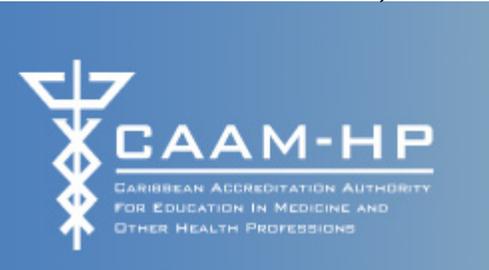
Stephen Seeling, ECFMG Vice President of Operations



Marta van Zanten, FAIMER Research Associate



Lorna Parkins, CAAM-HP Executive Director



# Introductory Remarks on the Role of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates

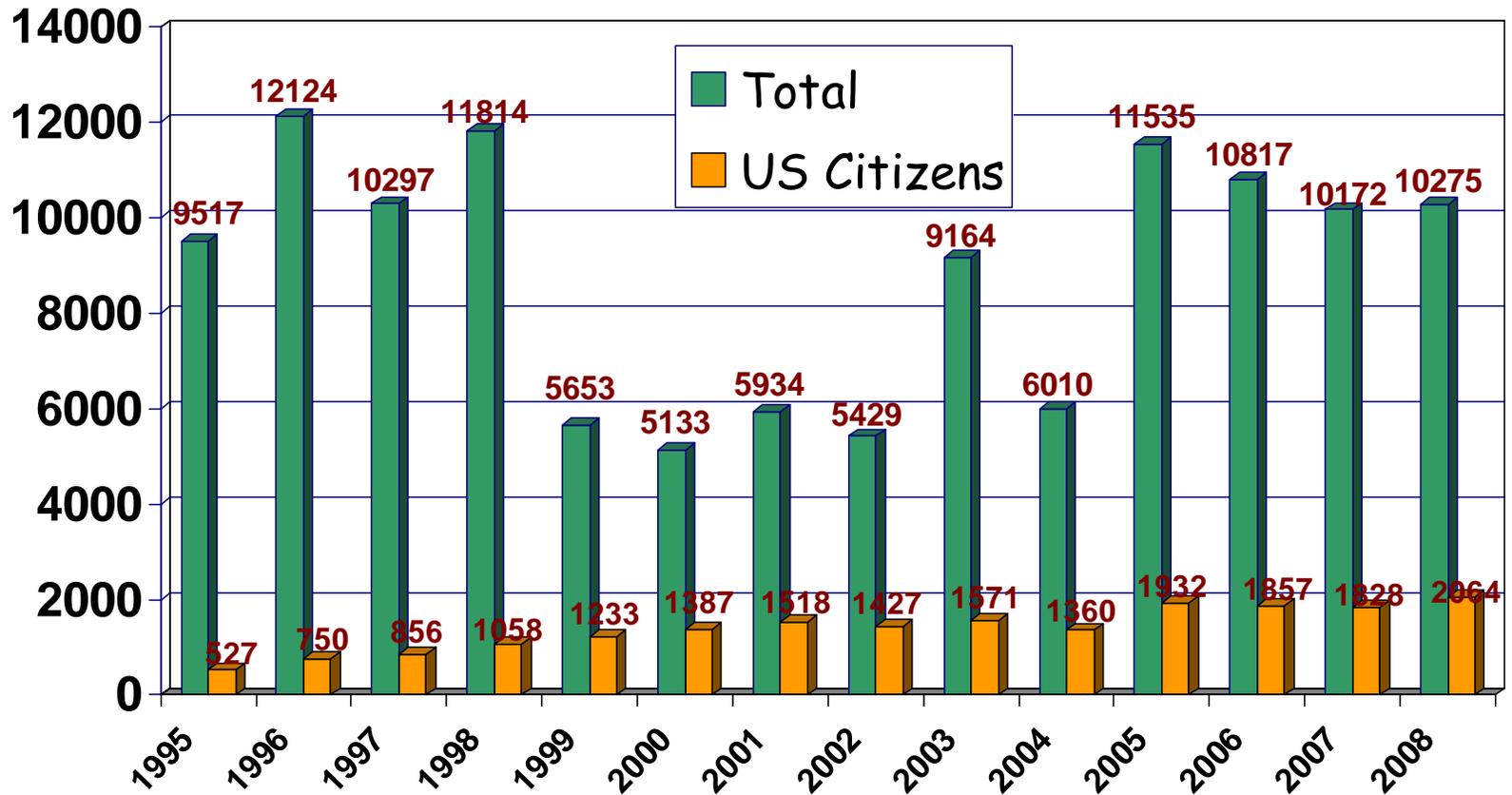
**Stephen Seeling, JD**  
**Vice President of Operations**



# Standard ECFMG Certificate

- Issued to applicant once he/she has passed USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK, Step 2 CS (or CSA), and after receipt of final medical diploma and final medical school transcript and primary source verification of diploma and transcript.
- Required to enter ACGME-accredited residency programs in the United States.
- Required to take USMLE Step 3.
- Prerequisite for unrestricted licensure in all states.

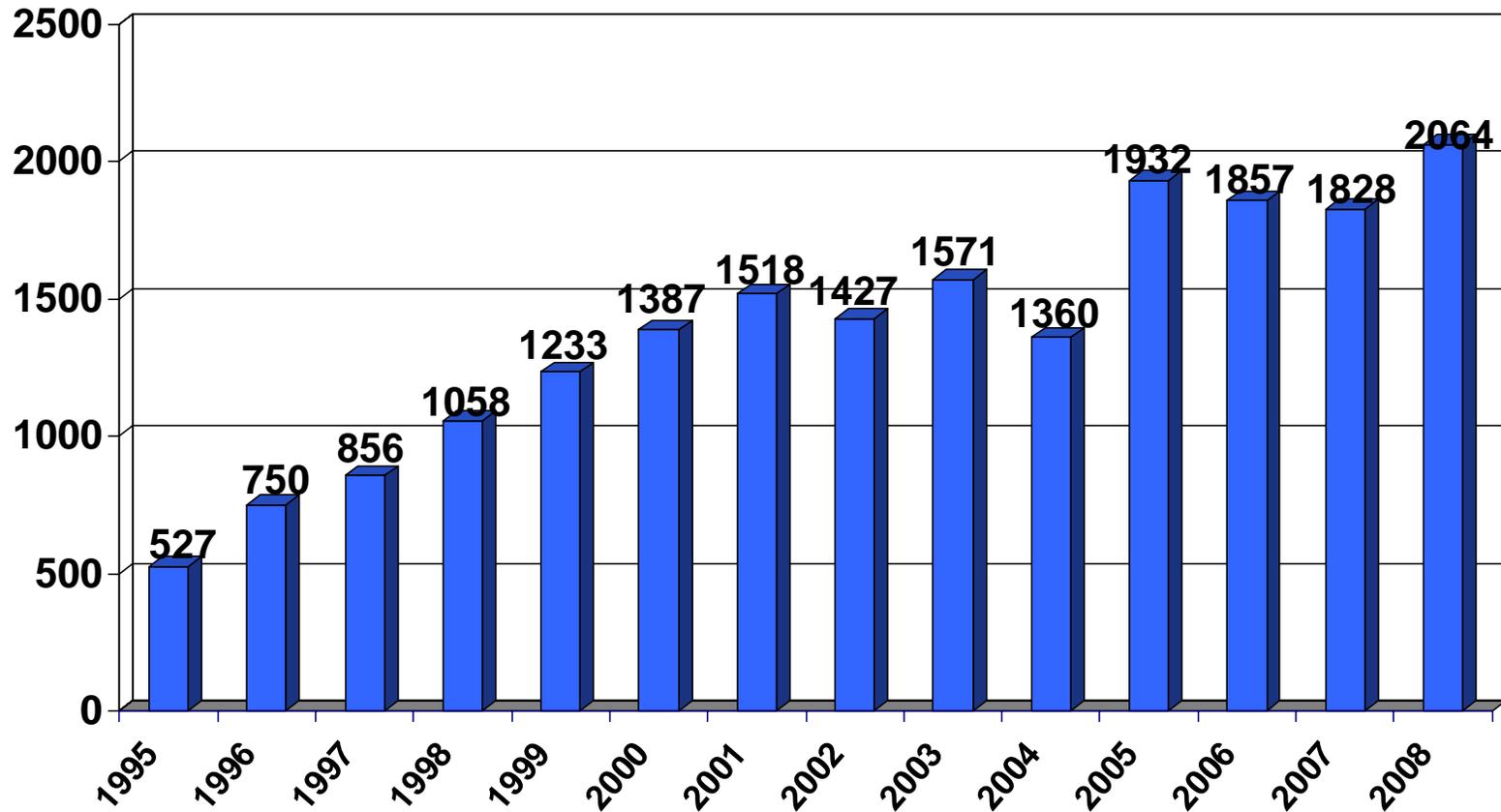
# ECFMG Standard Certificates Issued\*



•Citizenship is as of time of entrance into medical school.

Note: The availability of exam results for some examinees taking the Step 2 CS during the initial months of test administration was delayed until early 2005. As a result, the number of certificates issued in 2004 is lower than it would have been had this delay had not occurred.

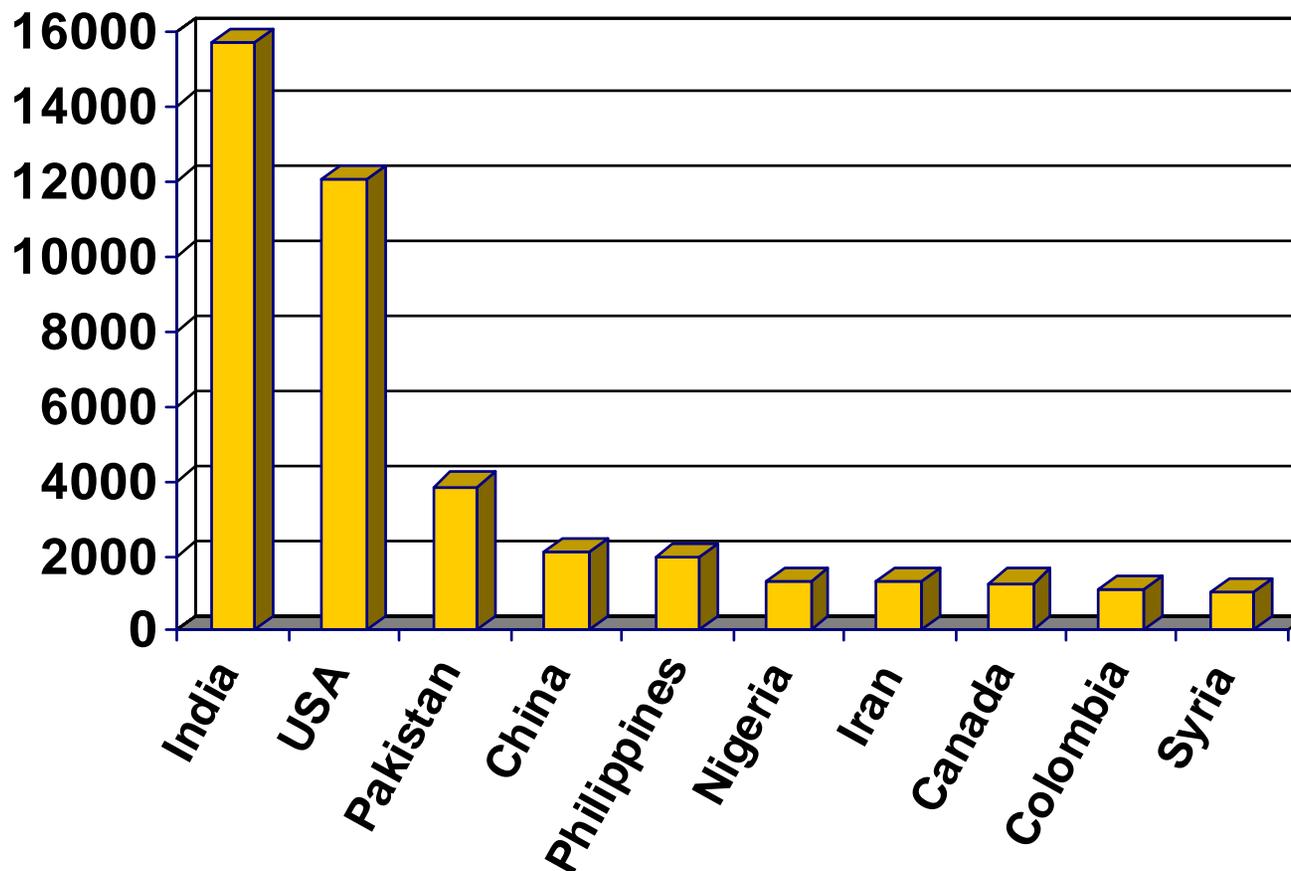
## ECFMG Standard Certificates Issued\* (US Citizens at entry to medical school)



•Citizenship is as of time of entrance into medical school.

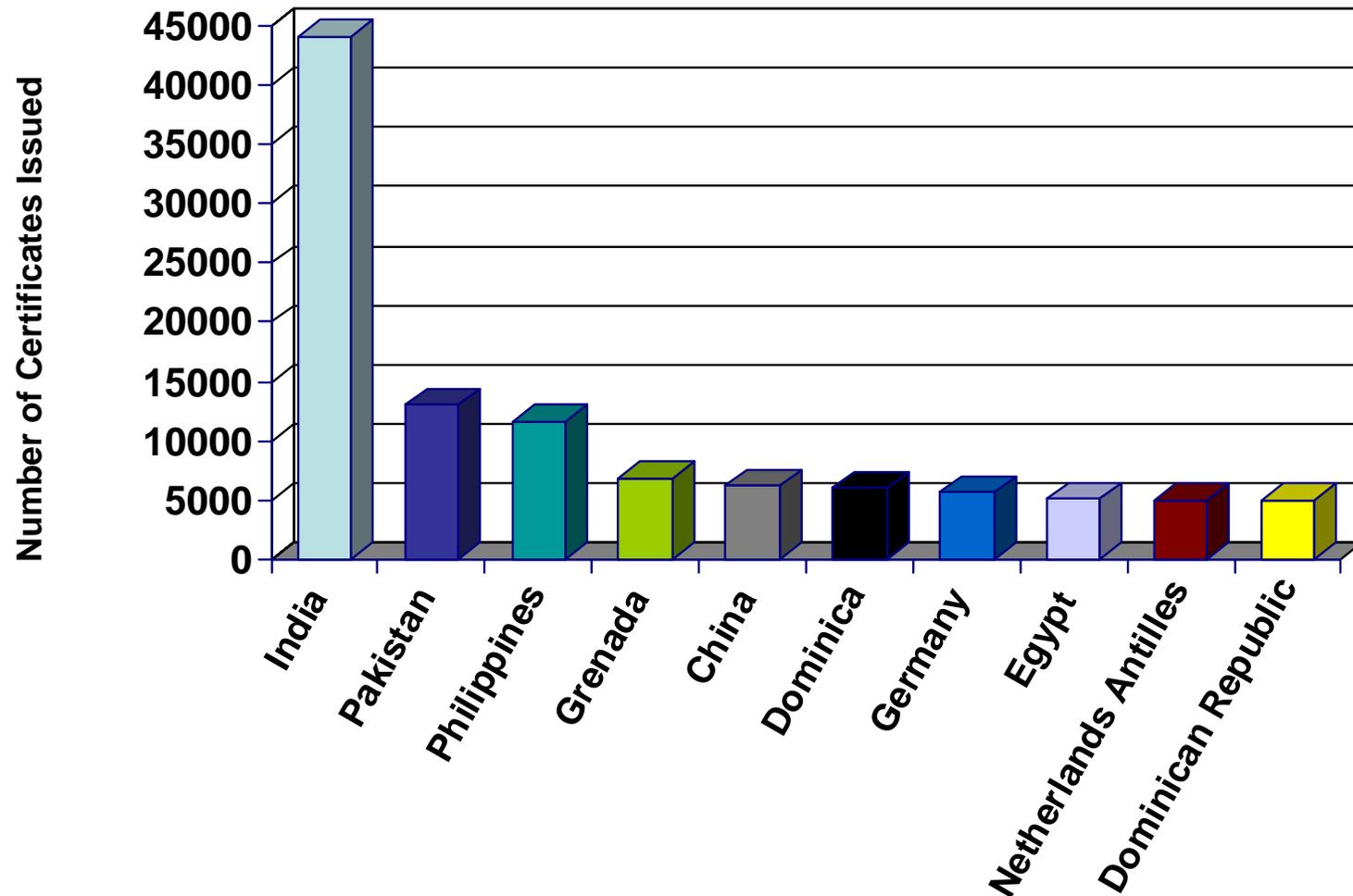
Note: The availability of exam results for some examinees taking the Step 2 CS during the initial months of test administration was delayed until early 2005. As a result, the number of certificates issued in 2004 is lower than it would have been had this delay had not occurred.

## ECFMG Certifications by Citizenship at Entry to Medical School (2002 – 2008)



63,403 total ECFMG certificates issued

# Top 10 Countries of Medical School Certificants, 1982-2008



Top 10 Countries based on aggregate data over a 27-year period.

# ECFMG Certification

- All students/graduates (341,855) who initially applied for an examination leading to ECFMG certification (1981-2005)
- 183,238 (53.6%) ultimately achieved certification (as of March 2009)
  - 61.6% of USIMGs
  - 52.6% of Non-USIMGs
- Of those applicants (1981-2005) who achieved certification 73% appeared in the AMA master file (2008)
  - 88.7% USIMGs
  - 70.2% Non-USIMGs

# International Medical Schools Accreditation Issues

**Marta van Zanten**



# Agenda

- **Accreditation: definition & models**
- **Resources available on medical schools and accreditation practices globally**
- **Case studies: Accreditation in the top 6 countries of IMG supply to the US**

# Accreditation versus Recognition

- **Accreditation** is a process of quality assurance
  - Evaluation of programs of education
  - Conducted by a governmental authority or an independent entity with government approval
  - May be mandatory or voluntary
  - Not a system for ranking programs or institutions
- **Recognition** attests to the authority of the institution to deliver an educational program and to grant a degree

# Examples of organizations that accredit medical education programs

## United States and Canada

- **Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)**
- **Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA)**

## Nothing equivalent on a global level

- **World Federation for Medical Education (WFME)**
  - **Provides models and support for undergraduate, postgraduate and CME accreditation**
  - **Does not accredit medical schools**

# Resources (IMED)

## Directory of recognized medical schools

- **International Medical Education Directory (IMED)**  
**<http://www.faimer.org/resources/imed.html>**
  - **Continuously updated**
  - **School listing required for ECFMG certification**
  - **School must be recognized in the country where it is located**
  - **Accreditation not a requirement**

# Resources (IMED)

- **Search by region, country, city or school name**
- **School listing includes contact information, degree offered, language of instruction, etc.**
  - **Graduation years “current” indicates that the school is open**
- **IMED contains historical information**
  - **Schools that closed, merged, or moved to other countries**
- **IMED listing does not imply an independent verification of school quality**

# Resources (DORA)

## Directory of Organizations that Recognize/ Accredite (DORA) medical schools

<http://www.faimer.org/resources/dora/index.html>

- Developing resource maintained by FAIMER
- Complementary resource to IMED

# Resources (DORA)

## Information in DORA

- **Country list with name of authority (or authorities) and website link, if available**
  - **Duration & levels of accreditation**
  - **Standards (description and/or links to documents)**
  - **Evaluation process (description and/or links to documents)**
  - **Outcomes / Consequences of accreditation**
    - **Mandatory / Voluntary**
    - **Additional information**
  - **Description of accrediting organization**
    - **Governmental authority / Independent entity**
- **Country listed in DORA does not imply that all schools in that country are accredited**
- **FAIMER does not independently verify the quality of accreditation processes**

# Resources (ECFMG / FAIMER Articles)

- **van Zanten, M., Parkins, L.M., Karle, H. & Hallock, J.A.** Accreditation of Undergraduate Medical Education in the Caribbean: Report on the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP). *Academic Medicine*. 2009;84:771-775.
- **van Zanten, M., Boulet, J.R.** Medical education in the Caribbean: Variability in medical school programs and performance of students. *Academic Medicine*. 2008;83:s33-s36.
- **van Zanten, M., Norcini, J.J., Boulet, J.R., Simon, F.** Overview of accreditation of undergraduate medical education programs worldwide. *Medical Education*. 2008;42(9):930-937.
- **Boulet JR, Bede C, McKinley DW, Norcini J.** An overview of the world's medical schools. *Medical Teacher*. 2007;29(1):20-26.
- **Boulet JR, Norcini JJ, Whelan GP, Hallock JA, Seeling SS.** The international medical graduate pipeline: recent trends in certification and residency training. *Health Affairs (Millwood)*. 2006;25(2):469-477.
- **Norcini JJ, McKinley DW, Boulet JR, Anderson MB.** Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates certification and specialty board certification among graduates of the Caribbean medical schools. *Academic Medicine*. 2006;81(10 Suppl):S112-S115.
- **Norcini JJ, Anderson MB, McKinley DW.** The medical education of United States citizens who train abroad. *Surgery*. 2006;140(3):338-346.

# Case Studies

**Standard ECFMG certificates issued in 2008 by country of medical school  
(top 6)**

- **India** 2,637 (25.7%)
- **Dominica** 696 (6.8%)
- **Pakistan** 654 (6.4%)
- **Grenada** 540 (5.3%)
- **Netherlands Antilles** 407 (4.0%)
- **Philippines** 370 (3.6%)

**These top 6 countries represent 52% of all  
certificates issued in 2008**

# **Accreditation status for top 6 countries**

## **Themes to be discussed**

- **Accreditation authority or authorities (or none)**
- **Mandatory / voluntary**
  - **If voluntary, number of schools accredited**
- **Governmental authority / Independent entity**
- **Unique issues associated with the country**

# India (267 schools in IMED)

## Medical Council of India

- **Mandatory**
- **Governmental authority**
- **Prescribes minimum standards based on size of medical school**
  - **Focuses mainly on infrastructure and human resources and less on the quality of education or outcomes**

## National Assessment and Accreditation Council

- **Voluntary**
- **Semi-governmental authority**
- **Institutions assessed through self and external evaluations**
  - **Makes institutions aware of their strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities**
  - **Encourages innovative methods**
- **7 medical schools accredited (2.6%)**

# **Dominica (2 schools in IMED)**

## **Medical Board of Dominica**

- **Mandatory**
- **Governmental authority**
  - **The Ministry of Health and Social Security has delegated the responsibility of evaluation, certification, review and oversight of medical schools to the Medical Board of Dominica**
- **1 school accredited (Ross)**
- **1 school under review (All Saints-Dominica)**

## **Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP)**

- **Voluntary**
- **Independent entity**
- **Political support by CARICOM nations and UK**
- **1 school reviewed, outcome pending (Ross)**

# **Pakistan (39 schools in IMED)**

## **Pakistan Medical and Dental Council**

- **Mandatory**
- **Independent entity**
- **Prescribes minimum standards based on size of medical school**

# **Grenada (1 school in IMED)**

## **Grenada Ministry of Health and Social Security**

- **Mandatory**
- **Governmental authority**
- **Bases the evaluation in part on The New York State Department of Education (NYSED) standards that were developed for evaluating international schools seeking clerkship positions in the state of New York**

## **Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP)**

- **Voluntary**
- **Independent entity**
- **Political support by CARICOM nations and UK**

# **Netherlands Antilles (6 schools in IMED)**

**Country in the process of political break-up**

- **Curacao and St. Maarten to become autonomous countries**
- **Saba, Sint Eustatius and Bonaire to become part of the Netherlands**

## **Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine**

- **Voluntary**
- **Independent entity (located in Ireland)**
- **Evaluated 2 schools (American University of the Caribbean and Saba)**

## **Netherlands-Flemish Accrediting Organization**

- **Will be mandatory**
- **Independent entity, but final decision made by Ministry of Education**

# **Philippines (38 schools in IMED)**

## **Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities**

- **Voluntary**
- **Independent entity**
- **3 medical schools accredited**
- **3 additional medical schools are candidates for accreditation**
- **Of the ECFMG certified physicians from Philippine medical schools, about 75% are from accredited or candidates for accreditation medical schools**

# **The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP)**

## **Overview and Status**



Lorna Parkins  
Executive Director  
CAAM-HP

# Presentation Outline

- **The Caribbean Region**
- **Background: Development of Medical Education and Medical Education Accreditation in the Caribbean**
- **Establishment of the CAAM-HP**
  - ❖ **CARICOM**
  - ❖ **Membership**
  - ❖ **Objectives**
- **CAAM-HP Accreditation System**
- **CAAM-HP Activities to Date**
  - ❖ **Accreditation Exercises**
  - ❖ **Establishment of Links**
- **Final Thoughts**



GULF OF MEXICO

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Bahamas, The

Turks and Caicos Islands

Cuba

Cayman Islands

Haiti

Dominican Republic

British Virgin Islands

Anguilla

Puerto Rico

Virgin Islands

St. Kitts and Nevis

Antigua and Barbuda

Guadeloupe

Dominica

Martinique

St. Lucia

Barbados

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Grenada

Trinidad and Tobago

Aruba

Netherlands Antilles

Venezuela

Colombia

Guyana

Suriname

Mexico

Belize

Honduras

Salvador

Nicaragua

Costa Rica

Panama

# Development of Medical Education and Medical Education Accreditation in the Caribbean

- Medical education in the **Caribbean Community (CARICOM)** began in 1948 at the foundation of the **University College of the West Indies (UCWI)**, at the Mona Campus in Jamaica as a constituent part of the University of London.
- The UCWI was conceived as a regional body established to serve the English-speaking Caribbean.
- The UCWI became the **University of the West Indies (UWI)** following independence in 1962.

# Medical Education, Accreditation, cont.

- **UWI expanded with the establishment of two full campuses in Trinidad and Barbados & clinical training site in the Bahamas.**
- **From inception to 2001, UWI medical education program accredited by the **General Medical Council (GMC)**.**
- **Medical schools later established in Suriname and Guyana.**
- **All these schools operate on a not-for-profit basis.**

## Medical Education, Accreditation, cont.

- **1970s - establishment of 'offshore' for-profit medical schools aimed primarily for students from the United States.**
- **The first of these was St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada and Ross University in Dominica .**

## **Medical Education, Accreditation, cont.**

- **Caribbean medical schools - often lumped together with no distinction regarding length of time of operation, missions, admission requirements, variability in training programs and student performance.**
- **Variation in quality control monitoring measures, the review process and the transparency of the process and standards.**

## **Medical Education, Accreditation, cont.**

- **Governments have tended to encourage the establishment of these schools aimed primarily at international students due to the economic and social benefits.**
- **Schools lack sufficient clinical resources; there is absence of internationally accepted accreditation procedures.**

# Establishment of the CAAM-HP

- In response to these issues and the regional thrust to ensure quality education and training in the context of the **CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)**, **CAAM-HP** set up under the aegis of CARICOM to accredit medical, dental, veterinary and other health professions education programs offered in CARICOM member states.
- CSME entails the creation of a single economic space which allows skilled persons (e.g., physicians) to move freely in the region.

# Establishment of the CAAM-HP, cont.

- **CARICOM** - political and economic affiliation of 15 **Member countries:**
  - Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago and
  - 10 countries have signed the Agreement establishing the CAAM-HP.
- **Associate member countries:**
  - Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

# Establishment of the CAAM-HP, cont.

## Associated Legislation

- Act giving effect to Agreement in Jamaica passed July 21, 2006 & may be cited as **The Caribbean Accreditation Authority (Medicine and Other Health Professions) Act, 2006.**
- **January 2008: UK government gave formal recognition to the CAAM-HP as the authority responsible for the accreditation of new and developing schools for the British Overseas Territories.**

# Establishment of the CAAM-HP, cont.

## Associated Legislation

- **Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure** has issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Adoption making it a requirement as of July 1, 2009, for those applicants for medical school licensure who trained in a medical school in CARICOM member countries including the British Overseas Territories to have graduated from a CAAM-HP accredited programme.

# Establishment of the CAAM-HP, cont.

**CAAM-HP** membership is multidisciplinary comprising representatives from the universities in the region, students, civil society, professional associations and external professionals with expertise and knowledge in medical education accreditation.

# Establishment of the CAAM-HP, cont.

## CAAM-HP objectives:

- (a) Achieve & maintain standards of excellence in programs of education in medicine and other health professions;
- (b) Establish an efficient system of regulation in relation to the standards and quality of such programs of education;
- (c) Secure international recognition of the programs of education in medicine and other health professions;
- (d) Maintain confidence of peoples of the region in the quality of medical and other health professions training offered in the region.

# CAAM-HP Accreditation System

- **CAAM-HP accreditation system based on the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) model.**
- **System transparency maintained by public availability of the standards & details of the accreditation process of the Authority on its website at [www.caam-hp.org](http://www.caam-hp.org).**

# CAAM-HP Activities to Date

## Accreditation Exercises

**To date, CAAM has carried out 8 site visits: 4 to established medical schools, 1 to an established school of veterinary medicine and 3 to proposed new offshore medical schools.**

# **CAAM-HP Activities to Date, cont.**

## **The established schools:**

**The University of the West Indies (UWI)**

**-- School of Medicine and School of  
Veterinary Medicine**

**The University of Guyana**

**St. George's University**

**Ross University**

# CAAM-HP Activities to Date, cont.

## **Proposed new offshore schools:**

1. Saint James School of Medicine (SJSM) in Anguilla,
  2. British International University (BIU) in Montserrat and
  3. University of Science, Arts and Technology (USAT) also in Montserrat.
- **CAAM-HP decision on the accreditation status is communicated to the schools, the Secretary-General of CARICOM and is published on the CAAM-HP website.**

# CAAM-HP Activities to Date, cont.

## Establishment of Links

CAAM-HP has the responsibility to establish affiliations and secure international recognition. CAAM-HP has established links with...

- The Federation of State Medical Boards (**FSMB**)
- The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (**ECFMG**)
- The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies In Higher Education (**INQAAHE**) as a full member.
- The CAAM-HP and the **World Federation of Medical Education (WFME)** hosted (with the support of the ECFMG) an Invitational Conference on Accreditation of Medical Education Programs in the Caribbean Jamaica, May 2007.

# CAAM-HP Activities to Dates, cont.

- **Current issue of *Academic Medicine* carries “Accreditation of Undergraduate Medical Education in the Caribbean: Report on the CAAM-HP”**
- **Co-authored by staff from ECFMG, WFME and the CAAM-HP**

# Final Thoughts

- **The development of CAAM-HP is a positive step towards promoting quality medical education in the Caribbean.**
- **Schools have acknowledged the usefulness of the process.**
- **Schools also recognise the importance of regular accreditation for quality assurance.**
- **The cyclical process of accreditation is a mechanism for on-going quality improvement.**

# **Questions and Discussion**