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MEDICAL COUNCIL OF IRELAND (MCI) AWARDED WFME RECOGNITION STATUS

Press Release

3 June 2020

The Medical Council of Ireland (MCI) which operates in the Republic of Ireland has been awarded Recognition Status by the World Federation for Medical Education ([WFME](http://www.wfme.org)). WFME Recognition Status has been awarded for ten years with immediate effect.

The Medical Council was established by the Medical Practitioners act 1978 (updated in 2007) and is made up of 25 members, including members of the public, doctors, representatives from teaching bodies and a range of other stakeholders. The members include those who are nominated by the Minister for Health or by other organisations and members who are elected by doctors. MCI is noteworthy among medical regulators in the world as it has a majority of non-medical members. All appointments to the Council are approved by the Minister for Health. In Ireland only medical schools accredited by the Medical Council can legally award medical degrees.

WFME is satisfied that the accreditation process, post-accreditation monitoring and decision making by MCI when it accredits these medical schools and faculties is to an appropriate and rigorous standard.

The [WFME Recognition Programme](#) follows the same principles as a medical school accreditation system: evaluation of documentation, policies and procedures; a site visit; and a decision taken by an independent committee with reference to pre-defined criteria.

The WFME Recognition Programme aims to raise the standards of medical education worldwide, through ensuring that national and regional accrediting agencies are acting in an appropriate, robust and transparent way. The intention is for all eligible accrediting agencies to be evaluated by WFME or to an equivalent standard. There are about 120 organisations listed in the Directory of Organizations that Recognize/Accredit Medical Schools ([DORA](#)). 23 accrediting agencies have been recognised by WFME to date, and a further 11 have formally commenced the process. A further 13 organisations are in active communication with WFME regarding their application.

Notes to editors:

1. The World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) is the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in official relation with the World Health Organization representing medical education and medical schools worldwide.
2. WFME was established in 1972. It works in partnership with its six Regional Associations for Medical Education, the World Health Organization, the World Medical Association and other global professional organisations to enhance the quality of medical education through delivery of its work programme, including:
 - Development of standards for medical education
 - Promotion of accreditation of medical schools
 - Management of the *World Directory of Medical Schools*, jointly with FAIMER

For further information please see www.wfme.org.

3. The WFME programme of Recognition of Accrediting Agencies was established following the 2005 WHO-WFME strategic partnership to improve medical education. The programme aims to address the need for a robust and independent system for the evaluation and recognition of accreditation agencies. Detail about the criteria for eligibility and the policies and procedures of the programme are published on www.wfme.org.
4. The following accrediting agencies have been recognised by WFME:
 - Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) (Countries of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM) – recognised until May 2022
 - The Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Medical Education Programs (TEPDAD) (Tıp Eğitimi Değerlendirme ve Akreditasyon Derneği) (Turkey) – recognised until July 2023
 - Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (in cooperation with LCME) (Canada) – recognised until April 2024
 - Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) (United States of America) – recognised until April 2024
 - Korean Institute of Medical Education and Evaluation (KIMEE) (Republic of Korea) – recognised until September 2026
 - Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine (ACCM) (Selected Caribbean countries) – recognised until December 2026
 - Japan Accreditation Council for Medical Education (JACME) (Japan) – recognised until March 2027
 - Australian Medical Council (AMC) (Australia and New Zealand) – recognised until January 2028
 - Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR) (Kazakhstan) – recognised until January 2028
 - Sudan Medical Council (SMC) – recognised until June 2028
 - Independent Accreditation Body for Health Professional Education (LAM-PTKes) (Indonesia) – recognised until October 2028
 - Institute for Medical education Accreditation (IMEAc) (Thailand) – recognised until October 2028
 - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (NCEQE) (Georgia) – recognised until October 2028
 - Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie) (NVAO) – recognised until November 2028
 - Mexican Board for Accreditation of Medical Education (Consejo Mexicano para la Acreditación de la Educación Médica (COMAEM) – recognised until April 2029
 - National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education (NAQAEE) (Egypt) – recognised until April 2029
 - System of Accreditation of Medical Schools/Sistema de Acreditação de Escolas Médicas (SAEME) (Brazil) – recognised until April 2029
 - Taiwan Medical Accreditation Council (TMAC) – recognised until April 2029
 - Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) (UAE) – recognised until June 2029
 - Secretariat of the Council for Undergraduate Medical Education (SCUME) (Iran) – recognised until June 2029

- Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA) (Cyprus) – recognised until February 2030
 - Working Committee for the Accreditation of Medical Education, Ministry of Education (WCAME) (China) – until June 2030
 - Medical Council of Ireland (MCI) (Republic of Ireland) – until June 2030
5. The following accrediting agencies have an application under consideration by WFME (listed in alphabetical order):
- Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission for Higher Education Institution (AQACHEI) (Jordan)
 - Agency for Accreditation of Educational Programs and Organizations (AAEPO) (Kyrgyzstan)
 - Conférence Internationale des Doyens et des Facultés de Médecine d'Expression Française (CIDMEF) (Selected Francophone countries world-wide)
 - Consejo Nacional de Acreditación (CAN) (Colombia)
 - Council for Higher Education (Israel)
 - Education & Training Quality Authority (BQA) (Bahrain)
 - Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health care (ECAQE) (Kazakhstan)
 - Grenada Medical and Dental Council (Grenada)
 - Instituto Acreditación Internacional (IAI) (Selected Latin American countries)
 - National Center for Academic Accreditations (NCAA) (Saudi Arabia)
 - Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) (Pakistan)
 - Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) (Philippines)
6. For more information please contact WFME at accreditation@wfme.org.