



Enhancing the quality of medical education worldwide

WFME was established in **1972** by **WHO** and the **World Medical Association**

Members: **6** regional organisations covering all countries worldwide

Other voting members on the WFME Executive council: **WHO**, **WMA**, **ECFMG**, **IFMSA**

Other partners: **AMSE**, **CenMEDIC**, **CIDMEF**, **FAIMER**, **JDN of WMA**, **UNESCO**

Quality enhancement of medical education achieved through:

- development of standards for medical education
- promotion of accreditation of medical schools
- development of databases on medical education
- projects on the future of medicine and medical education
- other publications and partnerships.

WFME current priorities:

- raising the **standards** for BME, PGME and CPD
- promotion of accreditation through the WFME **Recognition Programme**
- maintaining the **World Directory of Medical Schools** jointly with FAIMER.

Standards

= a global expert consensus on the standards for medical schools throughout the continuum of medical education and training.

The Trilogy

- **B**asic **M**edical **E**ducation
 - **P**ost **G**raduate **M**edical **E**ducation
 - **C**ontinuing **P**rofessional **D**evelopment
- Standards are not a universal core curriculum: they do not define what should be taught and learned, but at what standard should it be taught, and to what standard it should it be learned
 - Basic Medical Education Standards provide a template for medical schools and the agencies which accredit them
 - Not all of the WFME standards will be relevant in every setting.

WFME Recognition Programme

= an independent, transparent and rigorous method of ensuring that accreditation of medical schools worldwide is at an internationally accepted and high standard.

Established in response to two primary concerns:

1. **The rapid growth in the number of medical schools** worldwide, of variable quality
 - Accreditation has become a preferred instrument for quality assurance **but** does the accreditation system itself operate in a robust, transparent and norm-referenced way?
2. **An evolving market for accreditation** - private firms and individual consultants of variable probity offer accreditation
 - In countries without a national accreditation system, medical schools may be tempted to pay for accreditation from a dubious unrecognised source.

Currently: **7** agencies with Recognition Status, **10** agencies in progress

World Directory of Medical Schools – www.wdoms.org

= a free, searchable directory of the world's undergraduate (basic) medical education programmes

- About **3,000** schools listed, both operational and closed
 - Current information: start year, school type, operational status, programme details and contact information + notes from sponsors
 - In the future: inclusion of information on **accreditation**
 - Managed by: **WFME** and **FAIMER**.
- Listing signifies: recognition in the corresponding country
 - Listing does **not** signify: endorsement or recognition or accreditation by the *World Directory*, WFME, FAIMER, the sponsors, or WHO.