

# **The WFME Recognition of Accreditation Programme: different viewpoints**



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## Reasons for accreditation (1)

- The main reason is to enhance the quality of medical education, by verifying that medical schools are competent in the delivery of medical education, and that medical education programmes are suitable. This is to ensure that medical schools are educating doctors fit to serve the needs of the population where they function
- A secondary reason is to demonstrate to outside organisations and territories that the medical schools accredited are competent, and producing doctors at an accepted international standard

## Reasons for accreditation (2)

- An additional reason – but should be much less important than the other two – is to meet the 2023 deadline set by ECFMG. Although this is a secondary reason for introducing accreditation, it is a powerful stimulus
- “...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 for U.S. medical schools by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) or that uses other globally accepted criteria, such as those put forth by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME)”

# Rationale for evaluation of accreditation

- The existence of an accreditation system alone is not enough
- It may be no good! ... and not guarantee that the system will result in credible decisions on the quality of programmes in medical education
- The rapid expansion in the number of medical schools worldwide has created a growing market for accreditation
  - Accreditation “mills”
  - Totally corrupt systems
- Hence the development of the WFME Recognition of Accreditation Programme

# Recognition Programme now

- Process using the model of accreditation
  - Medicine-specific
  - Self-evaluation
  - Site visit observation
  - Recognition Committee
- Pre-defined criteria
  - 2005 WHO/WFME policy on accreditation
  - Criteria based on an expert consensus of good practice
  - Updated 2018, minor updates pending (April 2019)



# Choosing the right word

- Accrediting the accreditors/accrediting medical schools??
- Standards for medical education/standards for accreditation??
- Medical schools are accredited measured against standards for medical education
- Accrediting agencies are recognised using criteria for recognition

# Choosing the right word (2)

- Accrediting the accreditors/accrediting medical schools??
- Standards for medical education/standards for accreditation??
- Medical schools are **accredited** measured against **standards** for medical education
- Accrediting agencies are **recognised** using **criteria** for recognition

## Agencies recognised, agencies in progress, very large countries

- 14 agencies recognised and on the website
- 32 others on the list
  - 7 with site visit completed, or SV in progress, with 4/5 soon to come to decision
  - 5 SV date agreed for 2019
  - 20 at earlier stages
- **Includes -**
- 13 very large countries (> ~70 medical schools)
  - 3 - 6 recognised
  - 5 in progress
- only 2 with no progress