Using DEQAR Data to Enhance the World Directory of Medical Schools

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Overview of Presentation

- Medical education and the World Directory of Medical Schools

- Accreditation of medical schools

- ECFMG's certification requirements

- WFME Recognition Program

- Exploratory study using DEQAR

- Potential uses of DEQAR data to enhance the World Directory
  - Challenges

Medical Education

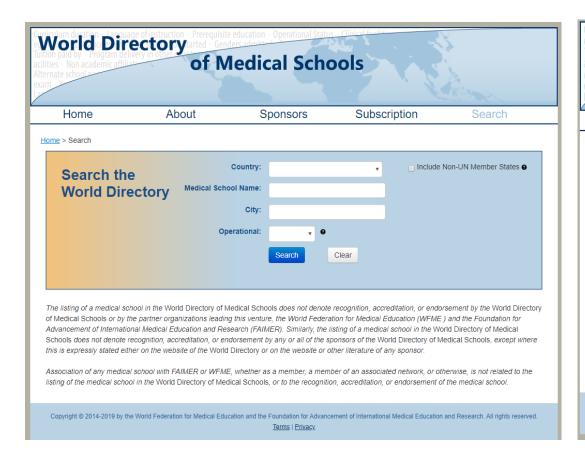Basic medical education ("medical school")

→ Post-graduate medical training

→ Continuing professional development

Faculty or school within a university OR free-standing entity

Many medical schools offer more than one "program"
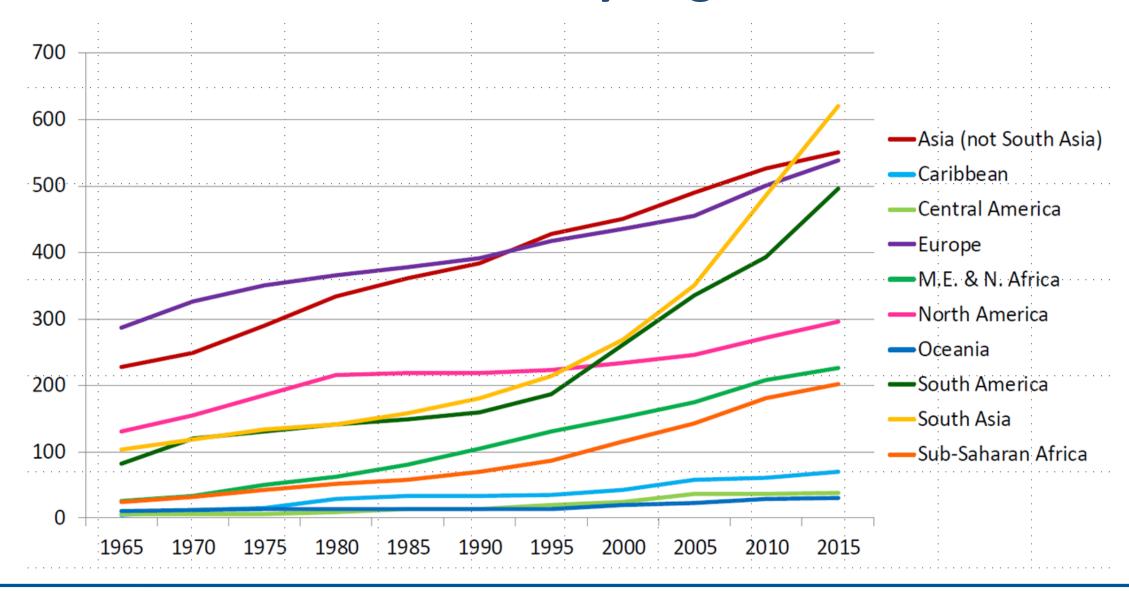
World Directory of Medical Schools

World Directory of Medical Schools

- All medical schools in the world (>3000)
  - ✓ Offering complete program of instruction
  - ✓ Awarding basic medical qualification
  - ✓ Recognised by the government of their host country to award MD or equivalent
  - ✓ Existing and historical
- Accreditation <u>not</u> a requirement

Number of Medical Schools by Region

Purpose of the World Directory of Medical Schools

Regulators & Employers
- reviewing physician qualifications

Researchers
- physician workforce supply
- characteristics of schools

Prospective students
- is this school right for me?

Accreditation of Medical Schools

About 70% of countries with medical schools have a system of accreditation

- Mandatory / Voluntary
- Medical education specific system / Part of higher education evaluation system
- Variability in standards and processes
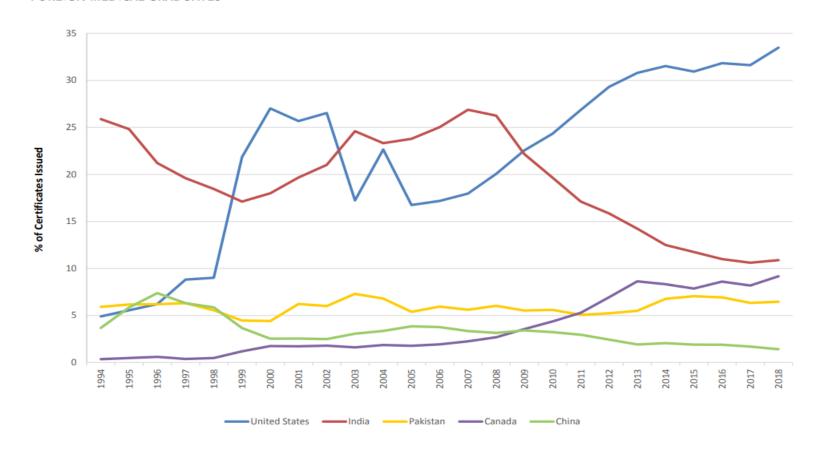- Little published evidence on effectiveness

  Tackett, S. Zhang, C., Nassery, N., Caufield-Noll, C. & van Zanten, M. **Describing the evidence-base for accreditation in undergraduate medical education internationally: A scoping review.** 2019 *Academic Medicine* (published online ahead of print)

The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)

- In the USA, 25% of physicians are graduates of international medical schools (IMGs)

- IMGs must be certified by the ECFMG
  - After medical school, before post-graduate training
  - ECFMG certifies about 10,000 physicians per year
    - 33% are US-citizens who went abroad for medical school

Top Five Countries of Citizenship, Certificants 1994-2018
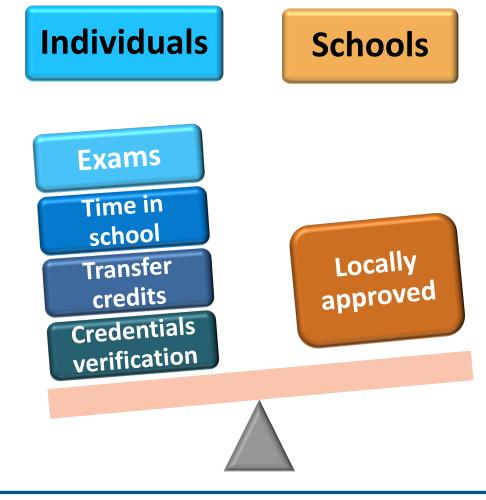
Citizenship is as of the time of entrance into medical school. Top five countries based on aggregate data over a 25-year period.
Source: ECFMG database. Data current as of January 26, 2019.

ECFMG Certification Historically Centered on Individual Assessment

Individuals

Schools

Exams

Time in school

Transfer credits

Credentials verification

Locally approved

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Medical School Quality Concerns

- Some schools are issued a one-time permit to operate without follow-up

- 30% of countries do not have accreditation system

- Accreditation, if available, is not always mandatory

- Significant variation in systems, processes and standards

Lack of oversight or self-regulation

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So what can be done?

- No single entity can accredit all medical schools worldwide

- There is a need for global standards

Solution: Instead of accrediting medical schools, let's go up one level to the accrediting agencies

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2010 ECFMG Board Resolution

Effective in 2023, individuals applying for ECFMG Certification will be required to graduate from a medical school that has been appropriately accredited **by an accrediting agency that is formally recognized.**

2023accreditation

2023 Accreditation Goals
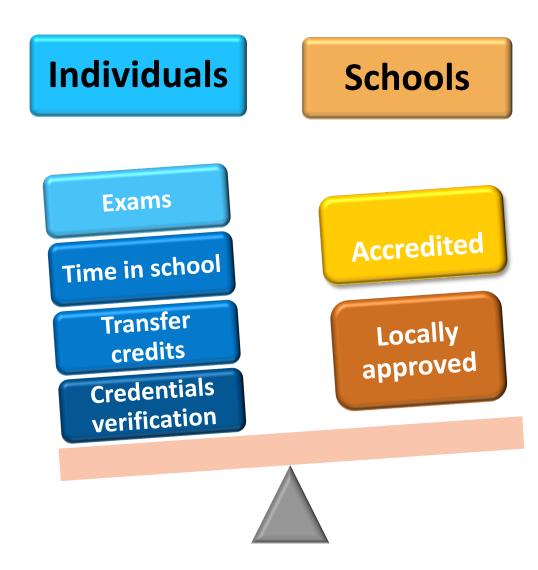
- Stimulate international accreditation efforts

- Promote universally accepted standards for evaluating undergraduate medical education

- Enhance quality of medical education

- Protect the public

You must clearly explain your problem

A More Balanced Approach

Individuals

Schools

Exams

Time in school

Transfer credits

Credentials verification

Accredited

Locally approved

Aligned with Other Global Initiatives

WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health

Milestones:

1.1 By **2020**, all countries will have established accreditation mechanisms for health training institutions.

2016 IAMRA Statement

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

STATEMENT
Accreditation of Medical Education Programs

2017 WMA Declaration

Supports Quality Assurance in Medical Education

WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
WMA

Greater Transparency & Accountability

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Implementation Approach: Four Phases

2023 accreditation

Phase 1 – 2018

New ECFMG web resource to help students make better decisions on medical school selection

Phase 2 – 2020

World Directory of Medical Schools includes accreditation status of medical school

Phase 3 – 2021

ECFMG physician reports include information on accreditation status of medical school

Phase 4 – 2023

Eligibility for ECFMG Certification is tied to accreditation status of medical school

Word Federation for Medical Education (WFME)

- Based in suburb of Geneva, Switzerland

- Mission is to enhance quality of medical education world wide and promote highest standards

- Recognition Program for Accrediting Agencies

  - Ensure medical education accreditation is transparent and at an internationally accepted high standard

wfme

WORLD FEDERATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION

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WFME Recognition Status of Accrediting Agencies

As of October 2019

20 agencies recognized	**4** agencies in review	**~15** agencies in discussion

Accrediting Agencies Recognized by WFME

- **Australia and New Zealand** - Australian Medical Council (AMC)

- **Brazil** - System of Accreditation of Medical Schools (SAEME)

- **Canada** - Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS)

- **Caribbean** - Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine (ACCM)

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

- **Egypt** - National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education (NAQAAE)

- **Georgia** - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (NCEQE)

- **Indonesia** - Indonesian Accreditation Agency for Higher Education in Health (IAAHEH/LAM-PTKes)

- **Iran** - Secretariat of the Council for Undergraduate Medical Education (SCUME) of the Ministry of Health

- **Japan** - Japan Accreditation Council for Medical Education (JACME)

- **Kazakhstan** - Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR)

- **Korea** - Korean Institute of Medical Education and Evaluation (KIMEE)

- **Mexico** - Mexican Board for Accreditation of Medical Education (COMAEM)

- **Netherlands and Belgium** - Netherlands-Flemish Accreditation Organization (NVAO)

- **Sudan** - Sudan Medical Council (SMC)

- **Taiwan** - Taiwan Medical Accreditation Council (TMAC)

- **Thailand** - Institute for Medical Education Accreditation (IMEAc)

- **Turkey** - Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Medical Education Programs (TEPDAD)

- **United Arab Emirates** - Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA)

- **USA** - Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)

Accrediting Agencies in Process of Review

- **China** - Working Committee for the Accreditation of Medical Education, Ministry of Education

- **Colombia** – National Council of Accreditation (CNA)

- **Cyprus** - Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA)

- **Ireland** - Irish Medical Council (IMC)

- **Israel** - Council for Higher Education (CHE)

- **Kazakhstan** - Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health care (ECAQE)

- **Morocco, Cameroon & Tunisia / Francophone countries** - International Conference of Deans and Faculties of Medicine of French Language (CIDMEF)

- **Pakistan** - Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)

- **Panama and other select Latin American countries –** International Accreditation Institute (IAI)

- **Saudi Arabia** - National Center for Academic Accreditation and Assessment (NCAAA)

WFME Recognition Program Process

1. Eligibility confirmation
2. Accrediting agency completes the *Application for Recognition*
   - "Self-study"
   - Questions parallel the *Recognition Criteria*
3. Correspondence to ensure *Application* is complete
4. Ad-hoc WFME Recognition Team appointed
5. Timeline for site visit(s) established
6. WFME Recognition Team observes accrediting agency
   - Conducting a site visit of one medical school
   - Meeting to make accreditation decision

WFME Recognition Program Process (continued)

7. WFME Recognition Team creates
   - Recognition Report describing the accrediting agency's compliance with the Recognition Criteria
   - Letter with quality improvement suggestions
8. WFME Recognition Committee makes a recognition decision
   - May include conditions to be met
9. Recognition decision is disseminated on the WFME website
10. Recognized agencies complete status reports

WFME Recognition Program Process (continued)

- Process takes approximately 1 year

- Recognition term is usually 10 years
  - Monitoring of imposed conditions
  - Yearly status reports

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WFME Recognition Program VS EQAR

Similarities
Goals • Ensure quality of QA agencies & accredited educational institutions
QA agency must meet eligibility criteria
QA agency submits documents and answers questions
Site visit
Team writes report documenting if/how QA agency meets recognition criteria
Decision made by committee based on report
Decisions disseminated
Recognition for fixed period

Differences		
Standards	EQAR - ESG WFME - WFME Criteria (QA agency must include some medical standards)	
Reviews	EQAR - outsources reviews (ENQA) WFME - appoints ad-hoc teams	
Site visit	EQAR - panel interviews of stakeholders WFME - team observes QA agency conducting a site visit to a school & QA agency making a decision on a school	
Student involvement	EQAR	✅
	WFME	🚫
Public reports	EQAR	✅
	WFME	🚫

Exploratory Study – Using DEQAR to Inform the Accreditation Information in the World Directory of Medical Schools

World Directory of Medical Schools to include accreditation information beginning in 2020

- WFME-recognized agency data by 2023
    - Certification and licensure purposes in the USA, Canada and other countries

Accreditation data for informational purposes
- World Directory used by students
- Additional quality indicators needed

Methods

- DEQAR searched for BME reports (September 2019)
- Data extracted
  - Country, institution name, program name, program qualification, accreditation agency, report type, accreditation status, accreditation decision, valid to/from dates, language, reports
  - Non-English reports translated using online software
  - If BME program report found, it was retained and institutional report discarded

- Retained reports were reviewed for # from WFME-recognized QA agencies

Results

109 non-expired reports
- 91 institutions / programs
- 21 countries

- 54 intuitional level, 55 program level
- 90 (83%) obligatory, 19 (17%) voluntary
- 32 (29%) English or English and another language
- 73 (70%) positive, 2 positive with conditions or restrictions, 2 negative, 32 (30%) designated "not applicable"

Results

Three agencies with reports included in DEQAR & recognized by WFME

1. National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (NCEQE)
    *   Georgia
2. Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR)
    *   Kazakhstan
3. Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO)
    *   Netherlands, Belgium (Flanders), Saba

Discussion

DEQAR reports variability
- Geographic
  - Europe + Costa Rica, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, etc.
- Level of detail describing medical program
  - Very little (institutional reports)
  - 70+ pages on BME program
- Decisions
  - Summative
  - Formative audits
  - "Not applicable"

Discussion

Number of reports per institution/program
- Poland and Romania – multiple programs in each medical school were reviewed independently
- Romania – more than one agency reviewed the same program
- Negative and later positive decisions for the same program

Adding Accreditation Data to the World Directory of Medical Schools

WFME recognized agencies
- Build "accreditor portal" for agencies to input decisions
- Requirement for ECFMG certification after 2023

Non-WFME recognized agencies
- What information to display?
- Source of information?
- Format?

Adding Accreditation Data to the World Directory of Medical Schools

DEQAR as a source?

- Institutional reports often provide minimal detail on BME
- Not all reports included
  - NVAO – only Belgian reports, none from NL or Saba
  - Finland – Medical specific report not included in DEQAR
  - A few non-English reports are scanned docs and could not be translated online
  - Expired report found, but not a current one
- Use DEQAR or the QA agencies directly?
- Conflicting decisions by multiple agencies?

Discussion Questions

1. Beginning in 2020, the World Directory of Medical Schools will include accreditation information for all medical schools. How can this data best be displayed, tracked, updated, and verified?

2. How can, or should, EQAR engage with discipline-specific accrediting agencies that function in parallel to a country's higher education quality assurance process (e.g., the General Medical Council in the UK, the Irish Medical Council, the University Commission for the Quality of Medical Education in Poland, the Australian Medical Council, etc.)

3. What can the World Directory of Medical Schools and the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) learn from EQAR and DEQAR? (e.g., increased transparency, student involvement, public engagement), and what can EQAR and DEQAR learn from the World Directory of Medical Schools and WFME? (e.g., site visits that include observation of an accreditation review of an institution and observation of an agency decision making meeting, global scope)

Thank you!

Questions & Discussion

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