



WORLD FEDERATION FOR **MEDICAL EDUCATION**

Key information

WFME is the global organisation concerned with education and training of medical doctors.

WFME's mission is to strive for better health care for all mankind through the highest scientific and ethical standards in medical education.

WFME's activities cover all stages of medical education, i.e. basic (undergraduate) medical education (BME), postgraduate medical education (PME), including vocational and specialist training, and continuing medical education (CME)/continuing professional development (CPD) of medical doctors.

WFME is an umbrella organisation for its six Regional Associations for Medical Education, following the organisational model of the World Health Organization (WHO).

WFME is a Non-governmental organisation (NGO) in relation to WHO, Geneva, and the WHO Regional Offices and has similar relations to UNESCO.

WFME is associated to the World Medical Association (WMA), the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), and international organisations with relation to medical education.

WFME's primary objectives are to enhance the quality of medical education world-wide.



Organisation

Executive Council

Members of the WFME Executive Council are:

- The WFME President
- The immediate WFME Past President
- The Presidents of the six Regional Associations for Medical Education
- Representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO)
- Representative of the World Medical Association (WMA)
- Representative of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
- Representative of the Educational Commission on Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)

CLUCIME

The **Copenhagen-Lund University Centre for International Medical Education (CLUCIME)**, a co-operative group of teachers and administrators from the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, and the Faculty of Medicine, Lund University, Sweden, provides a forum for development of the activities of the WFME office.

Regional Associations for Medical Education

The WFME Network comprises:

AMEE: Association for Medical Education in Europe

AMEEMR: Association for Medical Education in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

AMEWPR: Association for Medical Education in the Western Pacific Region

AMSA: Association of Medical Schools in Africa

PAFAMS: Panamerican Federation of Associations of Medical Schools

SEARAME: South East Asian Regional Association for Medical Education

Finances

WFME Headquarters is hosted jointly by the Faculty of Health Sciences, the University of Copenhagen, Denmark and the Faculty of Medicine, Lund University, Sweden.

Other financial contributions are provided by WHO and the ECFMG and as project oriented support.

Functions of WFME

To achieve its objectives WFME takes initiatives with respect to new methods, new tools and management of medical education.

Fulfilment of WFME tasks is sought obtained by:

- exchange of information
- development of mechanisms for ascertaining the views of medical educators
- promotion of research in medical education
- conduction of programmes to strengthen the quality of medical education
- promotion of joint planning programmes pertaining to the relation between medical education and health services
- facilitation of liaison between medical educators and relevant international organisations

Information

The WFME Website <http://www.wfme.org> brings information about the WFME policy and initiatives, WFME News and Activities, messages from the Regional Associations for Medical Education, information about results of collaboration with other partners and CLUCIME activities as well as a calendar on conferences, seminars and other meetings of relevance for medical educators. Moreover, the Website has a section with information received from various institutions and organisations.

All major WFME Publications are available free of charge on the website, including the WFME Standards and Guidelines in various languages.

WFME is affiliated with the journals *Medical Education* and *Educación Médica*. A WFME PAGE is published 3 – 4 times yearly in both journals with general information about WFME, News and Activities.

Essential documents as a result of WFME activities are published by the WFME Office.

Project types

- Assistance to self-evaluation of educational institutions and site visits
- Development of distance learning programme in collaboration with Open University Centre for Education in Medicine, UK
- National reform programmes in collaboration with the Regional WHO Offices
- Leadership of international task force on quality assurance in collaboration with the Association for Medical Schools in Europe (AMSE)
- Task force on international recognition of medical schools

WFME Global Standards Programme

History

The WFME programme on definition of international standards in medical education was launched in 1997. The purpose was to provide a mechanism for quality improvement in medical education, in a global context, to be applied by institutions, organisations and national authorities responsible for medical education. Standards were developed by three international task forces with broad representation of experts in medical education from all six WHO/WFME Regions. The final Trilogy of WFME Global Standards was published in 2003.



The Trilogy was the essential background material for the 2003 World Conference in Medical Education: Global Standards in Medical Education for Better Health Care, which endorsed the Standards Programme. The Standards have been validated in a number of pilot studies. Since 2004, the Standards programme has been promoted by the WHO/WFME Strategic Partnership to Improve Medical Education.

Implementation of the Standards Programme

The implementation process comprise:

- Information
- Translations
- Institutional Self-evaluations and Peer Reviews
- WFME Advisor Function
- Incorporation in National Standards and Accreditation Procedures
- Development of Guidelines for Accreditation
- Promotion of National Accreditation Systems
- International Recognition of Basic Medical Education Programmes
- Development of the Global Directories of Health Professions Education Institutions

Based on information of May 2007, the WFME Global Standards have been used in self-evaluation, peer review and other reform processes in more than 250 medical schools, and used as a template for national/regional standards and for recognition/accreditation procedures in more than 60 countries.

WHO/WFME Strategic Partnership

In 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) and WFME formulated a strategic partnership to improve medical education with the purpose to pursue a long-term work plan designed to have decisive impact on medical education in particular and ultimately on health professions education in general.

The objectives are:

- Assistance in developing and implementing reform programmes or establishing recognition/accreditation systems
- Means to update management of medical schools
- Promoting twinning between schools to foster innovative education
- Establishment of a shared database on quality improvement processes in medical schools

In 2005, the Partnership published *Guidelines for Accreditation in Basic Medical Education*.

Essential for this strategic partnership are activities conducted in collaboration with the *WHO Regional Offices* in terms of regional/sub-regional and national conferences, curricular development, facilitation of accreditation systems, etc.

Global Directories of Health Professions Education Institutions (GDHPEI)

The World Health Organization has decided that new Directories on Global Health Professions Education Institutions should be developed. The Directories will replace the WHO World Directory of Medical Schools and will stepwise include other health professions education institutions than medical schools. The Database will include qualitative information about schools and their programmes, including information of accreditation status.

Establishment of the Directories will take place in 2007. The Database of the Directories will be administered by the University of Copenhagen with assistance of WFME.

WFME Services

WFME conducts the following services within medical education:

- Quality Improvement
- Capacity Building
- Curriculum Development
- Development of National Standards
- Support to Self-evaluation Studies
- Peer Review and Site Visit
- Consultancy and Advisor Functions
- Promotion of Accreditation

WFME History

1972 Foundation

1984 International Collaborative Programme for Reorientation of Medical Education

1988 The Edinburgh Declaration

1993 World Summit Recommendations

1997 Global Standards Programme

2003 Trilogy of Global Standards and World Conference

2004 WHO/WFME Strategic Partnership

2005 Guidelines for Accreditation

2006 International Recognition of Medical Schools

2007 Global Directories of Health Professions Education Institutions



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