

LIAISON COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES
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Washington, D.C. 20037

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November 14, 2000

Peter K. George, Ph.D.
President and Vice Chancellor
McMaster University
1280 Main Street West GH-238
Hamilton, Ontario
Canada L8S 4L8

Dear President George:

This letter is to advise you of the action of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) at its meeting on October 4-5, 2000, and to transmit to you the report of the team of evaluators who visited the McMaster University Faculty of Health Sciences on June 25-29, 2000.

The LCME carefully reviewed the findings of the survey report and took the following actions:

1. Continued accreditation of the educational program leading to the M.D. degree for a seven-year term. The next full survey will take place during the 2006-07 academic year.
2. Requested that the dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences submit a report to both LCME Secretaries by September 1, 2002, addressing:
 - a. Steps taken to strengthen the financial base supporting the Faculty's current and planned activities. Specific items that warrant detailed attention in the report include:
 - Measures to diversify institutional funding and reduce the dependence on clinical practice income to offset reductions in governmental appropriations. Further developments in the proposal to establish an Alternative Funding Plan.
 - Identification of stable funding sources to assure adequate library and computer resources for the educational program, and to address existing and anticipated problems with overcrowding of library and computer facilities.
 - Plans for assuring adequate financial, faculty, educational, and clinical resources to accommodate the expected increased enrollment of international students.

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- b. Clarification of the roles and responsibilities, especially the decision-making authority, of the various entities charged with oversight and management of the educational program.
- c. Efforts to develop more rigorous systems for the structured assessment of clinical skills.

Accreditation is awarded to the program of medical education on the basis of judgment that there is an appropriate balance between the student enrollment and the total resources of the institution, including the faculty, physical facilities, and operating budget. If a proposal is developed to significantly modify the education program, or if there is to be substantial change in the student enrollment or the resources of the institution so that the appropriate balance is distorted, the LCME expects to receive prior notice of the proposed change. If the proposed change and/or balance of resources is significant, the status of accreditation will be re-evaluated by the LCME.

A copy of this letter and the survey report are being sent to Russell T. Joffe, M.D., Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences. This letter and the accompanying survey report are considered confidential by the LCME and its parent organizations. The medical school or the university may release them as institutional officials deem appropriate.

Sincerely,



David P. Stevens, M.D.
LCME Secretary, 2000-01

enclosure

cc (with enclosure): Russell T. Joffe, M.D., Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences
cc: David Hawkins, M.D., CACMS Secretary
Frank A. Simon, M.D., LCME Secretary, 2001-02