

The Association of Canadian Medical Colleges
L'Association des facultés de médecine du Canada

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August 4, 2000

Dr.
Karen Kershstein, Direct
or
Accreditation and State Liaison
on US Department of
Education
Office of Post-Secondary Education
- The Assistant Secretary
1990 K Street, NW, Room 7105
Washington DC 20006-8509
USA

Dear Dr. Kershstein:

I am responding on behalf of the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges and the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) to your letter of June 19, 2000 with respect to the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA). That letter was addressed to my predecessor, Dr. Harvey Barkun, who retired in July 1995.

I hope I may be forgiven for trying to suggest an expedited way to deal with this request. As you probably know, medical schools in Canada are accredited by both the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools and the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). In fact, since NCFMEA reviewed our standards for medical school evaluation in February 1995, nothing has changed, and if anything the links with LCME have become even stronger.

We continue to use all the documentation generated by the LCME and specifically the accreditation standards outlined in "Functions and Structure of a Medical School" (enclosed). These standards are generated jointly by both accrediting organizations and by our parent bodies, the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges in the United States, and the Canadian Medical Association and the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges in Canada. At least one US member appointed by the LCME is part of the team for every on-site survey at a Canadian medical school and that includes full accreditation surveys, limited surveys and secretariat visits. Reports of accreditation surveys of Canadian medical schools are discussed by the full LCME acting independently of CACMS, although the Chair of CACMS sits on the LCME as a voting member and is also an non-voting, ex-officio member.

Similarly, one of the co-chairs of the LCME and at least one member of the secretariat staff attend meetings of the CACMS.

Dr. K. Kershenstein

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I'm sure that either of the LCME Co-Secretaries, Dr. David Stevens in Washington or Dr. Frank Simon in Chicago would be pleased to provide any additional information or perspective from the United States point of view that you might wish to have.

I trust that this abbreviated response will suffice for the purpose of NCFMEA's activities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Hawkins". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

David Hawkins, MD
Executive Director, and Secretary,
Committee on Accreditation of
Canadian Medical Schools

enclosure

DH/cj

