

U.S. Department of Education

Staff Analysis of the Report Submitted by Grenada

Prepared March 2012

**Background**

At its September 1996 meeting, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) initially determined that the standards of the New York State Department of Education (NYSDE), Office of the Professions, used to evaluate St. George's University School of Medicine (SGUSOM) in Grenada (for the purpose of placing St. George's students in clinical clerkships in teaching hospitals in New York State), in conjunction with the standards used by Grenada's Ministry of Health, Housing, and the Environment to evaluate and approve clinical clerkships for St. George's students outside of New York, were comparable to those used to evaluate medical schools in the United States.

The NCFMEA determined, at its March 2001 meeting and again at its March 2007 meeting, that the country's standards used to evaluate its medical school continued to be comparable to those used to evaluate medical schools in the United States. At the March 2007 meeting, the country was requested to provide a report of its accrediting activities to be reviewed at the Committee's March 2009 meeting. At the March 2009 meeting, the country was requested to provide a further report, containing an update on one issue, at the Spring 2011 Committee meeting. Since the membership of the Committee had temporarily lapsed and the Committee was not meeting at that time, the report is being considered at the current meeting instead.

**Summary of Findings**

Based on a review of the report submitted by Grenada, Department staff concludes that the country has provided the information requested by the NCFMEA and that its actions during the past year appear to be consistent with the NCFMEA Guidelines.

**Staff Analysis**

**Current status of medical schools**

## **Country Narrative**

St. George's University School of Medicine (SGUSOM) remains the only medical school in Grenada. It continues to be accredited by the Ministry of Health of the Government of Grenada and approved by the New York State Department of Education's Office of the Professions for the purposes of long term clinical placement in New York State.

## **Analyst Remarks to Narrative**

The country reports that the St. George's University School of Medicine (SGUSOM) continues to be the only medical school operating in Grenada. The school is accredited by the government of Grenada, but is evaluated by the New York State Department of Education (NYSDE). Based upon a site visit report attached as an exhibit in another section, it appears that the SGUSOM's most recent review by the NYSDE occurred in February 2007 and that the school remains fully accredited.

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## **Overview of accreditation activities**

### **Country Narrative**

Grenada Ministry of Health (Grenada Ministry)

The following site visits were conducted by teams of consultants retained by the Grenada Ministry for purposes of academic program oversight. The members of each team have extensive experience in the fields of medical education, academic program review and professional regulation. The consultant teams included the following individuals: Bernard Pollara, MD, PhD, Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics, College of Medicine, University of South Florida; Leo Sullivan, MD, Retired Associate Dean, Tufts University School of Medicine; Brian Gilchrist, MD, Former Pediatric Surgeon, SUNY Brooklyn, currently Chief of Pediatric Surgery and Director of the Children's Hospital Institute, Elliot Hospital, Manchester, New Hampshire; Howard Sohnen, MD, Former Associate Dean for Clinical Medical Education and OB/Gyn Residency Program Director, Mercer University School of Medicine; Lynn Ringenberg, MD, Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics, University of South Florida, College of Medicine; and Thomas J. Monahan, MA Retired Executive Secretary, NYS Board for Medicine. At the conclusion of each site visit, a report was prepared and submitted to the Permanent Secretary of the Grenada Ministry of Health.

January 23-27, 2011

During this period of time a team of consultants visited the following SGUSOM clinical sites in New Jersey, New York and California on behalf of the Grenada Ministry of Health: Richmond University Medical Center, Staten Island, New

York; Hackensack University Medical Center, Hackensack, New Jersey; Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, Colton, California. During the site visit the team members met with the Director of Medical Education or Medical Director, Clerkship Directors, clinical faculty, administrative support staff and students. A report of the team's findings was prepared and submitted to the Permanent Secretary of the Grenada Ministry of Health. A copy of the report transmittal letter is attached as Attachment 1

June 13-16, 2011

A site visit was conducted by a team of consultants on behalf of the Grenada Ministry of Health to St. Michael's Medical Center, Newark, New Jersey; Bergen Regional Medical Center (Behavioral Health Sciences), Paramus, New Jersey; Jersey City Medical Center, Jersey City, New Jersey; JFK Medical Center, Edison, New Jersey; Monmouth Medical Center, Long Branch, New Jersey. During the site visit the team members met with the Director of Medical Education or Medical Director, Clerkship Directors, clinical faculty, administrative support staff and students. A report on the team's findings was prepared and submitted to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health. A copy of the report transmittal letter is attached as Attachment 2

August 16-18, 2011

During this period of time a team of consultants visited the following SGUSOM clinical sites on behalf of the Grenada Ministry of Health: St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston, New Jersey; Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Newark, New Jersey; Norwalk Hospital, Norwalk Connecticut; St. Mary's Hospital, Waterbury, Connecticut; Norwegian American Hospital, Chicago, Illinois. During the site visit the team members met with the Director of Medical Education or Medical Director, Clerkship Directors, clinical faculty, administrative support staff and students. A report on the team's findings was prepared and submitted to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health. A copy of the report transmittal letter is attached as Attachment 3

November 7-13, 2011

During this period of time a team of consultants to the Ministry of Health visited St. Joseph's Hospital Medical Center in Paterson, New Jersey; University Support Services, LLC in Great River, New York; and Basingstoke/North Hampshire Hospital and William Harvey Hospital in the United Kingdom. During the site visit, the team members met with the Director of Medical Education or Medical Director, Clerkship Directors, clinical faculty, administrative support staff and students. A report on the team's findings was prepared and submitted to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health. A copy of the report transmittal

letter is attached as Attachment 4

### **Analyst Remarks to Narrative**

The country provided site visit reports resulting from on-site reviews of selected clinical sites that were conducted in New Jersey, Connecticut, and Illinois during 2011. The review team concluded that the training sites were of high quality and provided excellent clinical education experiences. The team visited the following sites during August 2011:

New Jersey:  
St. Barnabas Medical Center  
Newark Beth Israel

Connecticut:  
Norwalk Hospital  
St. Mary's Hospital

Illinois:  
Norwegian American Hospital

The country provided no information regarding meetings held and accreditation decisions reached, nor accreditation conferences or training sessions held. Presumably, no such events occurred. However, more information is needed from the country in order to affirm this assumption.

Staff determination: Additional information is requested for this section. The country needs to indicate whether other events, in addition to the clinical site visits, occurred.

### **Country Response**

The continued accreditation of SGUSOM does not require additional formal action by the Ministry of Health provided that NYSED approval is maintained and there continue to be favorable site-visit reports submitted by consultant teams.

In relation to accreditation conferences and training sessions, it should be noted that all consultants have extensive experience in the areas of medical education and accreditation. All consultants are provided with written standards and guidelines and new consultants are trained individually before participating as full fledged team members. In addition, Mr. Thomas Monahan attends the annual meeting of the Federation of State Medical Boards and participates in those activities related to medical education and accreditation. In addition, he also anticipates attending the fall International Association of Medical Regulatory Agencies (IAMRA) meeting in Ottawa.

In relation to site visits conducted in 2011, and as stated in the Ministry's original listing of site visits between November 7 and November 13, 2011, a team of

consultants to the Ministry of Health site-visited the recently upgraded and newly occupied administrative offices of University Support Services LLC (USSLLC), in Great River, New York (February 2011). This third party servicer, consisting of approximately 160 administrative and staff support employees, serves as the North American correspondent to St. George's University. Attached to this section, please see the cover letter and site visit report covering the USSLLC visit wherein. The team met with Dean of Enrolment Planning, the Director of Financial Aid, the Dean of the School of Medicine, the University Director of Operations and the clinical placement staff. Please accept our apologies for not making this aspect of the November site visits and the team's acceptance of these facilities clearer in the initial submission.

### **Analyst Remarks to Response**

In its initial report, the country provided a list of site visits conducted during January, June, August and November of 2011 and site visit reports resulting from on-site reviews of selected clinical sites that were conducted in New Jersey, Connecticut, and Illinois during 2011. The review team concluded that the training sites were of high quality and provided excellent clinical education experiences.

In the draft analysis, staff requested information about other events that occurred, in addition to site visits. In its response to the request for additional information, the country provided information stating that a consultant working in the country's behalf attended meetings of the Federation of State Medical Boards.

Staff Conclusion: Comprehensive response provided

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### **Laws and regulations**

#### **Country Narrative**

There have not been any changes to the laws and regulations of the Government of Grenada affecting the accreditation of medical schools since December 2009.

#### **Analyst Remarks to Narrative**

The country states that there have been no changes to its laws affecting the accreditation of its medical school. It provided copies of various acts that authorize the school's operation.

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### **Standards**

## **Country Narrative**

There have been no changes to date in the New York State standards since December 2009. However, it should be noted that the New York State Education Department is currently in the process of reviewing and updating the current processes/procedures and standards in order to assure that they are comparable to current LCME standards and procedures.

## **Analyst Remarks to Narrative**

The country indicates that it continues to operate under the NYSED standards and that these standards, while under review, have not changed since 2009. A copy of "A Guide for Unaccredited/Unregistered Medical Schools Seeking to Operate in New York State" (the NYSED state standards) was provided as documentation. The country notes that the NYSED is currently reviewing its standards for alignment with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) standards, and that future revisions may result from this review.

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## **Processes and procedures**

## **Country Narrative**

There have been no changes to date in the New York State's processes and procedures since December 2009. However, it should be noted that the New York State Education Department is currently in the process of reviewing and updating the current processes/procedures and standards in order to assure that they remain comparable to current LCME standards and procedures.

## **Analyst Remarks to Narrative**

As stated and documented in the previous section, there have been no changes to the NYSED standards.

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## **Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities**

### **Country Narrative**

February/March 2012

During this period of time a team of consultants to the Grenada Ministry of Health will conduct site visits to the following clinical facilities: Kings County Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY; Spring Grove Hospital Center, Catonsville, MD; Miami Children's Hospital, Florida; and Cleveland Clinic, Westin, Florida.

March/April 2012

During this period of time a team of consultants to the Grenada Ministry of Health

will conduct site visits to the following clinical facilities: Virtua West Jersey Health Systems, Inc., Voorhees, New Jersey; Doctors Hospital of Michigan, Pontiac, Michigan; St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital Oakland, Pontiac, Michigan; St. John Hospital and Medical Center, Detroit, Michigan; Kern Medical Center, Bakersfield, California.

September/October 2012

During this period of time a team of consultants to the Grenada Ministry of Health will conduct site visits to the following clinical facilities in the United Kingdom: Staffordshire General Hospital, Stafford; Norfolk and Waverney Mental Health Partnership Trust, and Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, Norfolk; Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester; North Middlesex University Hospital and Watford General Hospital, London; St. Anne's Hospital, London; Poole General Hospital and St. Ann's Hospital, Poole; Great Western Hospital, Swindon; Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley; Ipswich Hospital, Ipswich; Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury; Barnet General Hospital, London; and Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury.

### **Analyst Remarks to Narrative**

The country provided a schedule of upcoming site visits to various clinical facilities in California, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York, as well as in the United Kingdom.

The country provided no information regarding upcoming accreditation meetings or on-site visits to its medical school. Presumably, no such events are scheduled. However, more information is needed from the country in order to affirm this assumption.

Staff determination: Additional information is requested for this section. The country needs to indicate whether other events, in addition to the clinical site visits, are scheduled.

### **Country Response**

In response to interest expressed in the Draft Staff Analysis Report in the sections entitled "Summary of Findings" and "Schedule of upcoming Accreditation Activities" a team of consultants to the Ministry of Health will conduct a site visit of the True Blue Campus of St. George's University in Grenada in November/December 2012. Please accept our apologies for omitting the plans for this visit in our initial submission.

### **Analyst Remarks to Response**

In its initial report, the country provided a schedule of upcoming site visits to various clinical facilities in California, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York, as well as in the United Kingdom.

In response to a request for additional information in the draft staff analysis, the country provided information that a team of consultants, acting on behalf of the Ministry of Health, will conduct a site visit of the True Blue Campus of St. George's University in Grenada in November/December 2012.

The country also reports that one of its consultants, acting on behalf of the country anticipates attending the Fall 2012 International Association of Medical Regulatory Agencies (IAMRA) meeting in Ottawa, Canada.

Staff Conclusion: Comprehensive response provided

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### **Outstanding Issues**

#### **Report on your accreditation activities and evolution of family medicine.**

### **Country Narrative**

In April 2007 the New York State standards and guidelines for approval and, thus, the Grenada accreditation standards were amended by establishing a requirement for a Family Practice Clinical Clerkship in the clinical component of the program. St. George's University, School of Medicine, the only medical school in Grenada, responded at that time by forming two new departments; one in Family Medicine and General Practice and another in Emergency Medicine. SGUSOM has always required a four week rotation in primary care during the third and fourth year of medical school. The educational principles of this rotation could be learned by medical students in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine or pediatric ambulatory, primary care clinics or in emergency medicine. These departments were responsible to further develop the curriculum of the primary care rotation. In 2011, the school modified its "primary care" clerkship by replacing it with a specific "Family Medicine" four week requirement.

### **Analyst Remarks to Narrative**

In conjunction with the 2007 ED staff review, the NCFMEA explored with the Grenada whether a clerkship in Family Practice was required, and the Committee requested that the country provide further information regarding such a clerkship in its 2009 report. The country then noted in its 2009 report that New York's guidelines had been amended in 2007 to require a rotation in Family Practice. The country has now provided an update in its current report noting that the curriculum in has been further developed and that its "Primary Care" clerkship has been replaced with a specific "Family Medicine" four week required rotation.

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