

U.S. Department of Education

Staff Analysis
of the
Annual Report Submitted by

Grenada

Prepared February 2002

Background

At its September 1996 meeting, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that the standards used by the New York State Department of Education's Office of the Professions to evaluate St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada, in conjunction with the standards used by Grenada's Ministry of Health and the Environment, were comparable to those used to evaluate medical schools in the United States.

At its March 2001 meeting, the NCFMEA determined that the accreditation standards used by Grenada to evaluate St. George's University School of Medicine remained comparable to the standards used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States. Grenada's evaluation process included an evaluation of St. George's on-site educational program as well as an on-site review of clinical clerkship sites used by St. George's students in teaching hospitals in New York State by New York State's Office of the Professions and an evaluation and approval of the clinical clerkship sites used by St. George's students outside of New York by Grenada's Ministry of Health and the Environment.

The NCFMEA requested that Grenada begin to submit annual reports, the first due in January 2002. The NCFMEA directed that the first report provide a general overview of Grenada's accreditation activities, and also specific information on whether the teams responsible for conducting on-site reviews of clinical clerkship sites in Michigan and New Jersey include representatives of the state medical boards in those states.

Summary of Findings

Based on its review of the report submitted by Grenada's Ministry of Health and the Environment, Department staff concludes that Grenada has provided all of the information requested by the NCFMEA. Department staff also concludes that the country's accreditation activities during the past year appear to be consistent with the NCFMEA guidelines.

Staff Analysis

The Ministry of Health and the Environment reported the following:

Overview of accreditation activities:

Personnel from the New York State Education Department's (NYSED) Office of the Professions conducted site visits at hospital clinical training sites used by St. George's University in the United Kingdom in January 2001 and in California in February 2002. These visits were made pursuant to Grenada's contract with the NYSED. The NYSED determined that both clinical training sites met the standards of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education and were comparable to the clinical programs in New York State. The Chief Medical Officer, on behalf of Grenada, accepted the NYSED report.

Summary of any changes or developments in the following areas:

Laws and Regulations:

The annual report did not identify any significant changes in the laws or regulations that affected the accreditation of the medical school.

Standards, Processes and Procedures:

The annual report did not identify any plans for changes in the standards, processes or procedures that would affect the accreditation of the medical school.

Schedule for upcoming accreditation activities:

The Ministry of Health and the Environment entered into a contract with "highly qualified, experienced accreditation experts" to conduct on-site inspections this spring at two other St. George's University clinical training hospitals in New Jersey and Connecticut. The Ministry intends to retain these "experts" to conduct on-site inspections at the remaining University clinical training sites in Florida, Michigan and Maryland by the end of 2002.

In addition, the New York State Office of the Professions will review the basic sciences program at St. George's in Grenada in 2002. It will also review the entire clinical sciences program and visit all of the clinical training sites in New York this year to ensure that they meet the NYSED's Office of Professions' standards.

Additional Information:

Finally, in response to the NCFMEA's request for information, Grenada reported that members of State medical boards do not accompany Grenada's on-site review experts on accreditation reviews.