

U.S. Department of Education

Staff Analysis
of the Report Submitted by

Israel

Prepared January 2004

Background

At its September 1999 meeting, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that the accreditation standards used by the Council for Higher Education (Council) to evaluate medical schools in Israel were comparable to those used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States.

At its September 2001 and September 2002 meetings, the NCFMEA accepted the reports submitted by the Council on the accreditation activities of the Committee for the Re-Evaluation of Medical Schools (hereafter, Committee) in Israel. The NCFMEA also requested that the Council submit another report in December 2003 on the Committee and its accrediting activities. That report is the subject of the staff analysis that follows.

Summary of Findings

Based on its review of the report submitted by Israel's Council for Higher Education, Department staff conclude that the Council has provided all of the information requested by the NCFMEA. Department staff also conclude that the country's actions during the past year appear to be consistent with the NCFMEA guidelines.

Staff Analysis

The Council reported on the following three categories of information as requested by the NCFMEA:

1. Overview of accreditation activities

Activities within the requested reporting period include:

In August 2002, the Committee reviewed a progress report from Ben Gurion University of the Negev. The Committee accepted the report noting that the

school is implementing the Committee's recommendations. The school's next re-evaluation is scheduled to take place in 2005.

In November 2002, the Council adopted the report (in its entirety) of the evaluation of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HU): The Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School. As a result, there is no change in the accreditation status of the HU-Hadassah's medical school. The school's next re-evaluation is scheduled to take place in five years.

In February 2003, the Committee was scheduled to review the progress report of Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in which the institution was to address specific concerns identified (in 2001) by the Committee. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the report was not reviewed until June 2003. At that time, the Committee accepted the progress report noting satisfaction with the school's progress in implementing the Committee's recommendations. The school's next re-evaluation is scheduled to take place in 2005.

In August 2003, the Council requested a progress report from Tel Aviv University, The Sackler School of Medicine addressing the recommendations in the Committee's 2001 report. The Committee plans to review the report in February or March 2004 and to meet with the University and medical school representatives at that time.

2. Summary of any changes or developments in:

a. Laws and Regulations:

At its June 2003 meeting, the Council formally established a national system of quality assurance and assessment for all Israeli higher education institutions and programs. The new mechanism will be implemented by a unit within the Council. Its Director has been appointed and its operation is scheduled to begin during 2004. When the new unit is fully operational, it will incorporate the re-evaluation of all the medical schools. Until that time, the Committee will continue its work.

b. Standards, Processes and Procedures:

The report noted there have been no changes in the standards, processes and procedures used by the Committee.

3. Schedule for upcoming accreditation activities

As noted above, the Committee will meet and act on the progress report from one institution in February or March 2004. Also during early 2004, the

Committee will request a progress report to be submitted by Hebrew University of Jerusalem: Hadassah Medical School for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

Although somewhat delayed, the Committee still plans to convene a series of meetings to summarize the first cycle of medical school re-evaluations in Israel and to prepare a concluding report.

The Committee has no site visits planned for January to December 2004.