

U.S. Department of Education

Staff Analysis
of the Report Submitted by
Israel

Prepared August 2000

Background

Israel last appeared before the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) at its March 2000 meeting. At that meeting, the Committee accepted the interim report submitted by Israel's Council for Higher Education's (CHE). (The NCFMEA had determined, at its Fall 1999 meeting, that the accreditation/approval standards used by the CHE to evaluate medical schools in Israel were comparable to those used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States and had requested the interim report after making the comparability determination.)

The interim report that was submitted by the CHE and reviewed by the NCFMEA in March 2000 focused mainly on the first on-site reaccreditation visit conducted by the Committee for the Re-Evaluation of Medical Schools at the medical school of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev during January 2000. After reviewing the report, the NCFMEA requested that the CHE submit another interim report for the Committee's Fall 2000 meeting and focus the report on the activities of the Committee for the Re-Evaluation of Medical Schools and its on-site evaluation visits to Israel's other medical schools. The CHE submitted its report to the Department in late July, and the report is the subject of the staff analysis that follows.

Summary of Findings

Based on its review of the annual report submitted by the CHE, Department staff concludes that Israel has satisfied all of the reporting requirements imposed by the NCFMEA. Department staff also concludes that the country's actions during the past year appear to be consistent with the NCFMEA guidelines.

Staff Analysis

The report submitted by Israel's Council of Higher Education focuses on the re-evaluation activities at three of the four medical schools in Israel: the medical school of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the Faculty of Medicine of the

Technion, and the School of Medicine of Tel-Aviv University (the Sackler School of Medicine). The report also includes a revised schedule for the reevaluation review to be conducted at the fourth medical school in the country, the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School. The review at this school is now scheduled for February 2001.

With respect to the medical school of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the CHE reports that the Committee for the Re-evaluation of Medical Schools finished deliberations of its on-site review findings, completed its written report, and sent the report to the school for comment. Once the school responds, the report and response will be brought before the Council for Higher Education at its Fall 2000 meeting. The CHE provided information in its interim report to the NCFMEA about the contents of the Committee's report on Ben-Gurion, but those are not included in this staff analysis for reasons of confidentiality. It is clear, however, that in evaluating Ben-Gurion the Committee conducted a thorough review of, among other things, the school's administrative structure, its curriculum, clinical practice, and faculty.

With respect to the Faculty of Medicine of the Technion, the Committee began its work on the re-evaluation of the medical school at a meeting on March 26, 2000, at which it reviewed Technion's self-study report. The Committee then conducted an on-site visit on April 10-11. During the visit, the Committee verified the information in the self-study report, inspected the school's facilities, and interviewed administrators, faculty members, and students. At the end of the on-site visit, the Committee's members met with senior officials of the school and summarized their findings, discussing with them their observations of the school's strengths and weaknesses. Finally, the Committee met in a closed session to comment on the visit and to organize the sending of their comments to the Council of Higher Education's secretariat. The secretariat was preparing a draft report of the Committee's findings and recommendations for the Committee's September 2000 meeting at the time Israel submitted the interim report that is the subject of this staff analysis.

The Committee will finalize its report at the September meeting, and the final report will be sent to Technion for its comments. The final step in the re-evaluation process again will be the CHE's review of the report. As in the case of the medical school of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the CHE interim report to the NCFMEA provided information about the Committee's findings and recommendations for the Faculty of Medicine of the Technion, but those are not repeated here for reasons of confidentiality.

With respect to the School of Medicine of Tel-Aviv University (the Sackler School of Medicine), the information provided by the CHE indicates that the school has completed and submitted its self study to the Council for Higher Education's secretariat. The CHE secretariat was reviewing the self-study response at the time Israel submitted its interim report to the NCFMEA, and upon completing this

task, will forward the report to the Committee for the Re-evaluation of Medical Schools. The Committee will begin its work at its September meeting in preparation for its November 2000 site visit to the Sackler School of Medicine.

As is evident from the above information, it is clear that Israel has complied with the NCFMEA's request to provide in its interim report information on the accreditation activities of the Council for Higher Education and the Committee for the Re-Evaluation of Medical Schools, and specifically, the Committee's on-site evaluation visits to Israel's medical schools. The report clearly describes the accreditation activities of both entities and focuses mainly on the Committee's procedures in the site-visit evaluation process. The report also documents all the steps the CHE and the Committee are taking in the reevaluation process of the medical schools in Israel and provides the time tables for all their activities.