

THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

MAY 14 2004

SENT BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Dr. P. C. Kesavankutty Nayar
Acting President
Medical Council of India
Aiwan-E-Galib Marg
Kotla Road
New Delhi, India 110 002

Dear Dr. Nayar:

On March 8, 2004, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met in Washington, D.C., to review materials from 13 countries, including the report that had been requested from India in my letter, dated May 23, 2003, to Dr. M. Sachdeva, Secretary of the Medical Council of India (Council). At the meeting, the NCFMEA members heard testimony from Dr. D. K. Sharma, Member of the Council's Executive Committee, as well as testimony from you. The testimony provided was most helpful, and the NCFMEA members wish to thank both Dr. Sharma and you for your participation in the meeting.

In my May 23rd letter I had indicated that the NCFMEA had requested a report providing the current status of medical schools in India; an overview of the Council's accreditation activities; information on any changes in India's laws and regulations affecting medical schools; information on any changes in the Council's accreditation standards, processes, and procedures; and a schedule of upcoming accreditation activities. Subsequent to my letter, U.S. Department of Education staff had contacted the Council to request that the report also include specific information on any action the Council may have taken regarding the suspension of medical school admissions that occurred in September 2003 at a medical school in Bombay.

During the meeting, Dr. Sharma and you informed the NCFMEA members of recent circumstances in India affecting the operations of the Council, which resulted in the Council's delay in submitting the report on accreditation activities that had been requested by the NCFMEA. You also described the Council's current system for recognizing and inspecting medical schools and the Council's proposal to supplement its current recognition and inspection process with a new accreditation process, and lastly you reported on the action of the Indian courts to address the problem at the Bombay medical school.

After considering your testimony, the NCFMEA voted to defer accepting the Council's report on its accreditation activities until its September 2004 meeting, pending the receipt of additional information from the Council. That information is to include a complete report on activities under India's current recognition/inspection process, as well as an update on the status of the accreditation proposal that was scheduled for discussion at the Council's general meeting on March 29, 2004. Specific details about the report are provided in the enclosure.

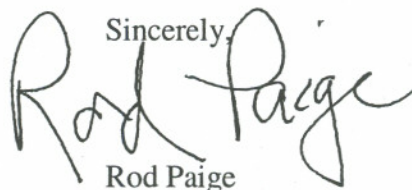
Please provide the requested report by July 1, 2004 to the U.S. Department of Education at the address below:

John Barth
Director, Accreditation and State Liaison Staff
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, NW – Room 7105
Washington, D.C. 20006-8509
U.S.A.

If you have any questions regarding the information requested, please feel free to contact Mr. Barth at (202) 219-7011 (telephone), (202) 219-7005 (fax), or john.barth@ed.gov (e-mail).

This summer, Bonnie LeBold, the Executive Director of the NCFMEA, will contact you to provide details regarding the September 2004 NCFMEA meeting. In the interim, if you have any questions about the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. LeBold at (202) 219-7009 (telephone), (202) 219-7008 (fax), or bonnie.lebold@ed.gov (e-mail).

I want to thank you for taking the time to respond to our requests for information about your standards and processes for evaluation and accreditation of medical schools. The NCFMEA members and I very much appreciate your interest and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rod Paige

Enclosure

cc: Dr. D. K. Sharma
Member, Executive Committee
Medical Council of India

**Information Requested from India and
the Medical Council of India
by the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education
and Accreditation (NCFMEA)**

Due Date: July 1, 2004

Submit to: John Barth
Director, Accreditation and State Liaison Staff
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, N.W. – Room 7105
Washington, DC 20006-8509
USA

Phone: (202) 219-7011
Fax: (202) 219-7005
E-mail: john.barth@ed.gov

Content: The purpose of the report is to provide the NCFMEA with a summary of the recognition/inspection/accreditation activities involving the medical schools in India, including the following information (and any applicable supporting documents):

- *Follow-up questions to discussion during March 2004 NCFMEA meeting:*
 - Please provide a complete report on activities under India's current recognition/inspection process.
 - Please provide an update on the status of the accreditation proposal that was scheduled for discussion at the Council's general meeting on March 29, 2004.
- *Current status of medical schools:* A list of the medical schools currently operating in India, indicating whether each school has gone through the recognition/inspection process and what the outcome of that process has been; for example, whether the school is fully recognized, whether the school is provisionally recognized, whether recognition has been terminated, etc.
- *Overview of inspection/accreditation activities:* A summary of key activities by the Medical Council in 2003, such as a list of reviews conducted, decisions reached, and meetings, conferences or training sessions held (including the March 29, 2004, meeting of the Council at which the accreditation proposal was scheduled to be considered).
- *Laws and regulations:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes during 2003 and 2004 in your country's laws or regulations that affect the recognition/inspection/accreditation of your medical schools, and if so, what those changes were.
- *Standards:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes during 2003 and 2004 in the standards that the Medical Council uses to recognize/inspect/accredit medical schools in the areas listed below, and, if so, what those changes were:
 - administration,
 - faculty,
 - curriculum,

- admissions procedures,
 - student services,
 - methods for evaluating student achievement, and
 - facilities.
- *Processes and procedures:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes during 2003 and 2004 in the recognition/inspection/accreditation processes or procedures used by the Medical Council for the following –
 - conducting site reviews of medical school campuses and clinical clerkship sites,
 - selecting and training individuals who conduct site evaluations or who make recognition/inspection/accreditation decisions,
 - periodically reevaluating and regularly monitoring medical schools,
 - reviewing substantive changes reported by medical schools,
 - ensuring the Medical Council has effective controls against the conflicts of interest and the inconsistent application of recognition/inspection/accreditation standards, and
 - ensuring that recognition/accreditation decisions are based, in part, on the evaluation of student performance after graduation from medical school.
 - *Schedule of upcoming recognition/inspection/accreditation activities:* A listing of upcoming meetings and on-site visits to medical schools and clinical clerkship sites for the period covering July 2004 through June 2005.