



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

June 10, 2010

Albert Stransky, M.D., Ph.D.  
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The Slovak Republic

Dear Dr. Stransky:

On September 14, 2009, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met to evaluate the documents submitted by the Slovak Republic describing the current accreditation standards and processes used to accredit medical schools in your country.

The purpose of the NCFMEA's review was to determine the comparability of the Slovak Republic's medical accreditation system for Doctor of Medicine programs, or the equivalent, to the systems used to accredit such programs in the United States (U.S.). Under U.S. law, accredited schools in a country that the NCFMEA finds comparable may apply to participate in the U.S. William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program. Then, if a medical school participates in the Direct Loan Program, U.S. students attending the school may apply for Direct Loans to help cover educational expenses. For more information about foreign schools' transition to the Direct Loan Program, access the new Foreign School Information Web page at <http://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html>.

The NCFMEA reviewed the report submitted by the Accreditation Commission (AC) regarding the current status of its medical education accreditation activities. The NCFMEA wishes to thank you and Dr. Andrej Krajcovic for the additional information provided on behalf of the Slovak Republic. Your testimony was very helpful, and the NCFMEA valued your participation in the meeting.

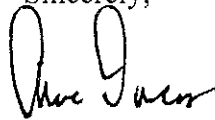
The NCFMEA formally accepted the report concerning the status of the Slovak Republic's accreditation activities since the Fall 2007 NCFMEA meeting and requested a report for review at the Fall 2011 NCFMEA meeting that addresses the then-current status of the Slovak Republic's accreditation activities. Enclosed is a report request to help guide your response to the committee.

During the meeting, the NCFMEA also approved the revised 2009 NCFMEA Guidelines that now must be used when applying for a comparability determination. The revisions include changes concerning remote sites and site visits. A copy of the revised Guidelines is enclosed for your convenience.

If you have any questions regarding the information requested, please feel free to contact Dr. Nancy Regan, Director, Accreditation and State Liaison Unit, at (202) 219-7018 (telephone), (202) 219-7005 (fax), or [Nancy.Regan@ed.gov](mailto:Nancy.Regan@ed.gov) (e-mail). If you have any questions about the Fall 2010 NCFMEA meeting, please contact Melissa Lewis, NCFMEA Executive Director, at (202) 219-7009 (telephone), [Melissa.Lewis@ed.gov](mailto:Melissa.Lewis@ed.gov) (e-mail), or at the fax number listed above.

Thank you for providing the information regarding the Slovak Republic's accreditation of its medical schools. We deeply appreciate your ongoing interest in maintaining high quality standards for medical education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arne Duncan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "D".

Arne Duncan

Enclosures

Report request

September 2009 NCFMEA Guidelines

cc: Dr. Andrej Krajcovic, Jessenius Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University

**Report Requested from the Slovak Republic by the  
National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA)**

Accrediting Agency: Accreditation Commission (AC)

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

- *Current status of medical schools:* A list of the medical schools currently operating in the Slovak Republic, indicating the most recent date each school has gone through the accreditation review process and the school's current accreditation status (such as fully accredited, provisionally accredited, etc.).
- *Overview of accreditation activities:* A summary of key activities since September 2009, including the following:
  - accreditation reviews of school campuses and clinical clerkship sites;
  - meetings held and accreditation decisions reached;
  - accreditation conferences or training sessions held; etc.
- *Laws and regulations:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes since September 2009 in the Slovak Republic's laws or regulations that affect the accreditation of your medical schools, and, if so, what those changes were.
- *Standards:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes since September 2009 in the accreditation standards that the AC uses to evaluate and 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 since September 2009 in the accreditation processes and procedures used by the AC for the following:
  - conducting site visits;
  - selecting and training individuals who conduct site evaluations or who make accreditation decisions;
  - periodically reevaluating and regularly monitoring medical schools;
  - reviewing substantive changes reported by medical schools;
  - ensuring the AC has effective controls against conflicts of interest and the inconsistent application of accreditation standards; and
  - ensuring that accreditation decisions are based, in part, on the evaluation of student performance after graduation from medical school.
  
- *Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities:* A listing of upcoming accreditation meetings and on-site visits to medical schools, branch campuses, and clinical clerkship sites for the period covering September 2009 through April 2011.