



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

NOV 17 2008

SENT BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Ms. Michal Nuemann
Quality Assessment Unit
Council for Higher Education
P.O.B. 4037
Jerusalem 91040
Israel

Dear Ms. Nuemann:

On September 15, 2008, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met in Washington, D.C., to review, among other items, the report submitted in support of Israel's redetermination application by the Israel Council for Higher Education (Council) on the activities of its Committee for the Re-evaluation for Medical Schools (Re-evaluation Committee). The NCFMEA members wish to thank Dr. Shimon Glick, Professor Emeritus, Ben Gurion University, for attending the meeting as the official representative of the Council and for providing additional information regarding the ongoing activities of the Re-evaluation Committee.

I am pleased to inform you that the NCFMEA formally accepted the Council's report and determined that the current standards and processes used to accredit medical schools in Israel are comparable to those used in the United States. The NCFMEA's comparability determination has a duration of six years from the date of this letter, unless the Committee withdraws or renews its determination prior to that date.

To keep informed regarding Israel's accreditation activities, the NCFMEA also requested that the Council submit an interim report that addresses the current status of its accreditation activities for consideration at the Fall 2011 NCFMEA meeting. We would appreciate receiving your written response and documentation by *June 15, 2011*. Please send the materials to the address below:

Nancy C. Regan, Ph.D.
Director, Accreditation and State Liaison
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, N.W., Room 7127
Washington, D.C. 20006-8509
U.S.A.

If you have any questions regarding the information requested, please contact Dr. Regan at (202) 219-7011 (telephone), (202) 219-7005 (fax), or Nancy.Regan@ed.gov (e-mail). Also, we hope that Israel will send representatives to the Fall 2011 meeting to respond to the NCFMEA members' inquiries, and, if so, the NCFMEA requests that you designate at least one person who is fluent in English to speak on behalf of the country to be fair to both the country and the committee since not all NCFMEA members are multilingual. The NCFMEA members and I very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

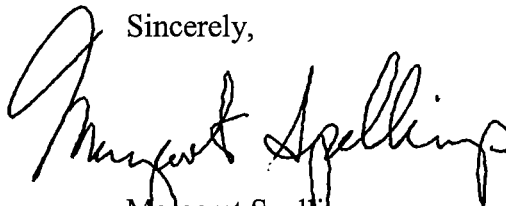
The NCFMEA Executive Director, Melissa Lewis, will contact you to provide information regarding the Fall 2011 meeting closer to that time. In the interim, if you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lewis at (202) 219-7009 (telephone), (202) 219-7008 (fax), or Melissa.Lewis@ed.gov (e-mail).

As a result of the determination of comparability by the NCFMEA, Israel's medical schools may apply to the U.S. Department of Education to participate in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program. If the medical schools' applications are approved, students enrolled in the schools who are either U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. may receive FFEL loans to finance their medical education if they meet all other eligibility requirements. The medical schools may obtain the proper application materials from the Foreign Schools Team by calling (202) 377-3168 or by writing to the following address:

Foreign Schools Team
FSA/Schools Channel/CMO
U.S. Department of Education
Room 73C3
830 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20202-5340
U.S.A.

Thank you for providing information regarding your country's reevaluation of its medical schools. The NCFMEA and I appreciate your interest in maintaining high quality standards for the accreditation of medical schools.

Sincerely,



Margaret Spellings

Enclosure: Report Request

cc: Shimon Glick, M.D.
Professor Emeritus
Ben Gurion University

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

Due Date: June 15, 2011

Submit to: Nancy C. Regan, Ph.D.
Director, Accreditation and State Liaison
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, N.W., Room 7127
Washington, DC 20006-8509
U.S.A.

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

Content: The purpose of the report is to provide the NCFMEA with a summary of accreditation activities involving medical schools located in Israel, including the following information (and any applicable supporting documents) for the period covering from September 2008 through May 2011:

- *Current status of medical schools:* A list of the medical schools currently operating in Israel, 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, including the following:
 - accreditation reviews of school campuses and clinical clerkship sites,
 - meetings held and accreditation decisions reached, and
 - accreditation conferences or training sessions held.
- *Laws and regulations:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes in Israel'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 in the accreditation standards that the Council for Higher Education (Council) 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 in the accreditation processes and procedures used by the Council 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 Council 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.