



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

NOV 12 2002

Honorable Roy Bodden
Minister Responsible for Education,
Human Resources & Culture
Cayman Islands Government
Government Administration Building
Grand Cayman
Cayman Islands

Dear Mr. Bodden:

On September 5, 2002, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met in Washington, D.C., to review, among other things, the standards and processes used by the Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine (Accreditation Commission), the entity designated by the Cayman Islands Government as its agent for the evaluation and accreditation of St. Matthew's University School of Medicine (St. Matthew's), the only medical school located in the Cayman Islands.

The NCFMEA members wish to thank Professors O. Conor Ward, Chair of the Accreditation Commission, and Professor Ian Temperley, Commissioner, for attending the meeting and providing additional information regarding the status of its accreditation activities involving St. Matthew's. At the meeting the NCFMEA determined that based on the latest information submitted by the Accreditation Commission and by your office, the standards and processes used by the Cayman Islands to evaluate and accredit St. Matthew's are comparable to the standards and processes used to accredit medical schools in the United States. However, because St. Matthew's has only recently moved to the Cayman Islands and the Accreditation Commission has not yet had the opportunity to conduct a full accreditation review of the school's Cayman Islands campus, the NCFMEA voted to limit the period of comparability to one year. The NCFMEA also requested that one or two NCFMEA members and Department staff be allowed to observe the Accreditation Commission's on-site review scheduled for March 2003 and that the Cayman Islands submit another report on accreditation activities involving St. Matthew's for review at the September 2003 NCFMEA meeting. At the September 2003 meeting, the NCFMEA will determine whether to extend the period of comparability beyond one year.

The purpose of the report is to provide the NCFMEA with a summary of the activities of the Government of the Cayman Islands and the Accreditation Commission involving the accreditation of St. Matthew's, including the following information:

- *Overview of accreditation activities:* A summary of key activities by the Accreditation Commission during the period covering September 2002 – June 2003, such as accreditation reviews conducted, meetings held and accreditation decisions reached, accreditation conferences or training sessions held.
- *Summary of any changes or developments in the following areas:*
 - *Laws and Regulations:* Any changes in your country's laws or regulations affecting the accreditation of St. Matthew's or any changes in your government's recognition of the Accreditation Commission to evaluate and accredit St. Matthew's.
 - *Standards, Processes and Procedures:* Any changes in the accreditation standards, processes or procedures that the Accreditation Commission uses to evaluate and accredit St. Matthew's.
- *Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities:* A listing of Accreditation Commission meetings and listing of on-site visits to St. Matthew's or to its clinical clerkship facilities planned for July 2003 – June 2004.

Please send the report by July 1, 2003, to the Executive Director of the NCFMEA at the address below:

Ms. Bonnie L. LeBold
Executive Director, NCFMEA
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, NW – Room 7007
Washington, DC 20006-7563
U.S.A.

The Executive Director will contact you in the spring of 2003 to provide information regarding the September 2003 meeting. In the interim, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. LeBold at (202) 219-7009 (telephone), (202) 219-7008 (fax), or Bonnie.LeBold@ed.gov (e-mail).

As a result of the determination of comparability by the NCFMEA, the St. Matthew's University School of Medicine may apply to the U.S. Department of Education to participate in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program. If the medical school's application is approved, students enrolled in the school 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 school may obtain the proper application materials from the Foreign Schools Team at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education
Foreign Schools Team-Room 73C3
SFA/Schools Channel/CMO
830 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20202-5340
U.S.A.
Phone: (202) 377-3168, Fax: (202) 275-3486

Thank you very much for providing information regarding your country's accreditation of its medical school. The NCFMEA members and the U.S. Department of Education appreciate your ongoing assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Rod Paige

cc: Professor O. Conor Ward, Chair
Professor Ian Temperley, Commissioner
Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine