

## U.S. Department of Education

### Staff Analysis of the Report Submitted by Israel

Prepared February 2000

#### Background

Israel last appeared before the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) in September 1999. At that meeting, the Committee determined that the accreditation or approval standards used by the Council for Higher Education to evaluate the medical schools in Israel were comparable to those used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States. The NCFMEA requested that the Council for Higher Education submit by February 15, 2000, an interim report of its accreditation activities, with particular focus on the results of the on-site reaccreditation visit scheduled for January 2000. The Committee planned to review the report at the March 2000 meeting.

The Council of Higher Education submitted its report to the United States Department of Education on February 15, 2000. The report is the subject of the staff analysis that follows.

#### Summary of Findings

The report submitted by Israel's Council of Higher Education focuses on the Council's re-evaluation activities at the medical school of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the Joyce & Irving Goldman Medical School. Israel's report also includes a revised schedule for the reevaluation reviews to be conducted at the other medical schools in the country.

Israel's Council of Higher Education (CHE) began the reevaluation process by sending a questionnaire in October 1999 to two medical schools—Ben-Gurion University and the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, which is scheduled for reevaluation in April 2000. The questionnaire is based on the standards used by The Committee for Re-evaluation of Medical Schools to Evaluate Medical Education (the Committee). The questionnaire is designed to have the medical schools complete a medical education database, undertake a self-study and prepare a report for the Committee.

The Committee met in December 1999 for the first time, and, among other activities, decided to add some questions to the questionnaire. These additional questions were then sent to the two medical schools that had already received the first questionnaire.

The Ben-Gurion University's Medical School Director appointed a self-study steering subcommittee, which issued a final report after the school completed its self-study and the questionnaire. The university sent the final report to the CHE, which forwarded it and all its appendices to all the members of the Committee.

The Committee then met in January 2000 and analyzed Ben\_Gurion's report. Later in January, the Committee visited the school for its on-site review ". . . to verify and update the information compiled in the school's report, clarify any issues that were unclear, view the environment and facilities first-hand, and meet with administrators, faculty members and students." The site visit lasted two days, as scheduled.

At the conclusion of the visit, the Committee held a "summary conference" with two university officials to summarize their findings, including the program's strength and problem areas. A complete schedule of the site visit, including the subject, participants and time for each activity is included in the materials accompanying this analysis.

The Committee members were instructed to send their comments to the CHE, which will prepare a draft for the Committee's report. CHE will then send the report to the members of the Committee for their use at their next

meeting, scheduled for February 23, 2000. At this meeting, the Committee will draft its final report, which will compare and document the program evaluated against the Committee's standards and make recommendations.

The final report will then be sent to the CHE, which ". . . exercises the legal authority to make decisions regarding the accreditation status of higher education in Israel, including universities and medical schools. Ben-Gurion may be asked to submit one or more interim progress reports before its next official re-evaluation in five years, address specific areas of concern and report on changes recommended or ordered. Additionally, the Committee may conduct on-site reviews as it deems necessary.

#### Staff Analysis

No detailed staff analysis of the report submitted by AMFEM is presented as the country was merely requested to report on its activities with respect to its accreditation of the medical schools in the country. Those activities have been summarized above.