



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL COLLEGES

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Medical Board Member/Administrator Questionnaire

The International Association of Medical Colleges (IAOMC) has established a much needed global, democratic, non-for-profit, open and transparent, self-financed, quality medical accreditation, N.Y. State Regents educational corporation. It does not have a political agenda. Its mission is to serve the public by assuring quality medical education. The sole responsibility for evaluation rests on independent expert evaluators and medical educators. The sole objective is to obtain the pertinent facts and have them verified. (For details please visit: www.iaomc.org.)

IAOMC was founded on March 17th, 2005 and is continuing in its developmental stage. This questionnaire containing eighteen questions is to determine the individual opinions of government Medical Board members and administrators. Distribution is by email or fax. IAOMC accreditation policies are democratically based, thus it will be guided by individual opinions. We wish to establish a bridge between two communities serving the public, the medical regulation/licensure community and the medical schools that are educating tomorrow's physicians. If it is important to you, it is important to us. We invite your thoughts and ideas.

It is understood you cannot and are not opining on behalf of your Medical board, and that this can only be done by the Board itself. It is also understood by expressing an opinion it is not binding and therefore is subject to change. Your opinion will be weighted as a reflection of your thinking at the moment you respond. Your opinion will not be individually cited or released to any other person or organization. It will only be used as an unidentified part of an aggregate data report.

Note the closing invitation to raise questions you would like addressed by medical educators or accreditors. IAOMC is establishing an advisory council that will consist of both a regulator section and medical educator section. It will operate globally. Communication and voting will be by fax and email.

Please place an 'x' next to the correct answer and return by email to bfergusonjd@earthlink.net or fax to (401) 596-6672. If your Board has an official position on any one or more of the questions asked please forward a copy of that policy or a reference to where a copy may be obtained.

I. PARTICIPATION

1. Are your State's Board administrators and/or members allowed to express their individual opinions on general questions related to medical education or credentialing of international medical schools?
 - A. If yes, please forward this to all other Board members. (Email addresses change frequently, staff and board members change)
 - B. If no, we apologize for this fax/email. Rest assured, when we are advised your Board member's opinions are prohibited, neither you nor any other of your government's board members, will be asked for their thoughts or opinions in the future. (Until such time a it is allowed.)

2. Is it of any interest that a foreign medical school is accredited?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

3. If yes, should an you consider that fact to be;
 - A. Very important
 - B. Important
 - C. Unimportant
 - D. Meaningless

4. If you had little or no information on a medical school's accreditor would you presume; the standards were appropriate, and the accreditation process was validly conducted?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

5. If an international medical school accreditor was fully open and transparent would that fact be:
 - A. Essential
 - B. Very important
 - C. Important
 - D. Unimportant

6. IAOMC has agreed to allow three government regulators/administrators to accompany a site visiting team as observers. Is this a good idea?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. No opinion

7. If an IAOMC panel of regulators were assembled would your government permit a Board or staff member to be an *official* participating regulator - expert site team member?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Don't know

8. If an IAOMC or other organization assemble a panel of regulators would your government permit a Board or staff member to be an *unofficial, independent*, participating regulator - expert site team member?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Don't know

9. Would your Board permit a staff member to accompany the site visiting team as an *official* government regulator - observer?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Don't know

10. Would your Board permit a staff member to accompany the site visiting team as an *unofficial* government regulator - observer?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Don't know

11. Is it permissible for the Board to review the IAOMC global standards, self-study and process for appropriateness?

- A. Yes
- B. No

II. DISTANCE LEARNING

Software programs are being used more often and effectively. Their development and integration continues at an increasing accelerated rate. Medical educators generally agree this system is proven as a useful supplement. On a global scope there are efforts by some medical schools that appear to be well beyond the capacity of appropriately teaching a medical student. Globally, with changes in medical education in some parts of the world regulators may wish to address their validity and application. For example, in the United States, many states rely on Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates certification, United States Medical Licensing Exam tests before graduate medical education can begin.

1. Is there a concern at your board that on the scope and effectiveness of distance learning and when it is being stretched beyond its limits?

- A. Yes
- B. No

2. Are there adequate regulatory safeguards in place?

- A. Yes
- B. No

3. Should there be special accrediting standards developed to govern distance education?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

III. ADVISORY COUNCIL

1. IAOMC is establishing an International advisory council to review medical education and regulation issues, should Board members, staff government regulators be invited to participate?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
2. Could members of your government be permitted to join an advisory council?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

IV. ACADEMIC DISCRETION

In the early 1980's a few medical schools were accepting transfer students who had completed courses in allied health sciences or other schools. Regulators presumed the validation of credits was based on the customary academic review. On close inspection it was discovered that, encouraged by financial incentives, there was clear violations of the academic prerogative to validate transfer credits. The offending schools were closed, and at least one person was sentenced to a United States penitentiary.

On quick review of some new school websites one finds promises to validate credits earned in other disciplines. It appears there may be new abuses of academic prerogatives.

1. Should more specific standards be developed to more carefully define when this academic prerogative is appropriate?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 2. Should this subject be added to the Advisory Council for discussion?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
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For convenience most questions were asked to be answered by a yes or no. A more detailed response would provide greater enlightenment. Therefore, any comments would be appreciated as well as any input on questions you would like to be addressed in future questionnaires.

Also, if you would like your name to be deleted from future poles please indicate.

Furthermore, Should you be aware of any persons willing to serve on IAOMC’s advisory counsel please submit their names and email address for staff follow up.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,

Bernard Ferguson, JD, President, International Association of Medical Colleges

Name _____ Dated _____

Board Member or Administrator (Circle one)

Regulatory Medical Board of _____