

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

### Introduction

ACCM is an independent, not for profit organisation based in the Republic of Ireland. ACCM is invited by Governments of countries that may not have a national medical accreditation body, to act on their behalf in relation to the accreditation of medical education programmes leading to the MD degree. In the majority of medical schools currently under accreditation by ACCM, the student body is drawn predominantly from North America where the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) is the recognised authority for the accreditation of medical education programmes leading to a medical degree. Therefore, ACCM has developed standards of accreditation that are closely aligned with those of the LCME.

ACCM has been granted recognition by the World Federation for Medical Education for a period of ten years until December 31st, 2026. ACCM is fully compliant with the Educational Commission on Foreign Medical Graduates' (ECFMG) requirements for an internationally recognised medical accrediting agency.

ACCM requires an accreditation agreement with each government appointing ACCM as its medical accrediting body that designates the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of both parties. ACCM's activities are not confined to the Caribbean. ACCM previously had one accredited medical school in Jordan and a school in Bahrain is at an advanced stage in the Accreditation process.

Inspection visits to medical school pre-clinical, clinical, and administrative sites in the U.S., and the U.K. are undertaken by members of the Commission. The ACCM Board meets twice a year and at intervals as required. During 2021, due to Covid-19 related travel restrictions, all meetings were conducted by videoconference.

ACCM submits inspection reports to all ACCM-accredited medical education programmes and governments served. It also reports and presents, when requested to do so, on behalf of these governments to meetings of the U.S. Dept. of Education (NCFMEA) in Washington, D.C. The Medical Accreditation Company of Ireland CLG (MACI) is the holding company for ACCM and is registered with the Companies Registration Office of Ireland (CRO) and the Registry of Business Names. The financial activities of ACCM are managed through MACI, which is fully compliant with Irish company law and publishes annual independently audited accounts.

ACCM is a not-for-profit organisation whose only source of income is fees paid for its accreditation services. Its finances remained stable in 2021, despite the impact of the COVID pandemic. All ACCM-accredited schools retained their registration and paid their fees in full.

The following are ACCM's Commissioners:

Dr. Anthony Peacock (Chair)

Prof. Brian Lawlor (Vice-Chair)

Prof. Hilary Sanfey (Hon. Secretary)  
Mr. Philip Berman (Treasurer)  
Prof. John Brock-Utne  
Prof. David Croke  
Dr. John Donohoe  
Prof. Ray Fitzgerald  
Sir Ian Gilmore  
Prof. Clive Lee  
Prof. Patrick Murray  
Prof. Michael Turner

In May 2021, Dr. Anthony Peacock assumed the role of ACCM Chair and Dr. Hilary Sanfey replaced Dr. Peacock as Honorary Secretary. ACCM is actively recruiting a new administrative executive assistant to replace Ms. Caroline Burrell who left ACCM in October. The Executive Management Group (EMG) met almost monthly to manage the daily activities of the Commission. This group reports to the ACCM Board. The Finance Committee meets quarterly and reports to the EMG.

Brief biographies of all Commissioners are available on the ACCM website ([www.accredmed.org](http://www.accredmed.org)).

## Overview

ACCM has not accredited any new schools in the past year and continues to act as the medical education accreditation body for the following countries/ territories/ kingdoms/ entities. ACCM has been granted authorisation and recognition by the governments of:

- St. Maarten
- Cayman Islands
- Federation of St. Kitts & Nevis
- Aruba
- Commonwealth of Dominica
- Curaçao
- Guyana
- Anguilla
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Belize
- Montserrat

While the Heads of Agreement remains in place, at the present time ACCM does not accredit medical schools in Belize, Montserrat, Guyana, or Anguilla.

In addition, The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) accepted the decisions of ACCM as the accrediting agency for Jordan.

The University of Jordan voluntarily withdrew from ACCM accreditation in January of 2022.

The governments of the countries listed below continue to accept the accreditation decisions made by the ACCM with regard to the schools that ACCM accredits in their countries.

- St. Maarten
- Cayman Islands
- Federation of St. Kitts & Nevis
- Aruba
- Curaçao
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Commonwealth of Dominica

ACCM has been recognised by the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) of the U.S. Dept. of Education and the ECFMG since 1995.

ACCM reports and presents to NCFMEA on a regular basis on behalf of the governments of the following countries:

- Cayman Islands
- Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis
- St. Maarten

The following is a summary of the ACCM activities in the past year:

### **Maintenance of Accreditation**

During an accredited period, an ACCM accredited medical school is required to maintain compliance with the ACCM Standards of Accreditation for Schools of Medicine. In order to ensure continued compliance, each medical school is required to complete and submit an extensive annual database that evaluates the activities of the school in the most recent academic year. All nine medical schools accredited by ACCM (Table 1) in 2021 completed and submitted the required annual documentation in a timely manner. The submissions were reviewed by a designated member of the ACCM Board and deemed to be satisfactory.

**Table 1**

School	Accreditation Status
American University of the Caribbean (AUC), St. Maarten and Preston UK.	Accredited to 31/12/27

St. Matthew's University School of Medicine (SMUSOM) Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands	Accredited to 30/06/25
Medical University of the Americas (MUA), Nevis,	Accredited to 31/12/22
University of Medicine and Health Sciences (UMHS), St. Kitts,	Accredited to 31/12/24
Xavier University School of Medicine (XUSOM), Aruba,	Accredited to 31/05/25
Avalon University School of Medicine (AUSOM), Curaçao	Accredited to 31/12/22
All Saints University School of Medicine (ASU), Commonwealth of Dominica,	Accredited to 31/12/22
St. James School of Medicine (SJ), St. Vincent and the Grenadines.	Accredited to 31/12/22
University of Jordan (UJ), Amman, Jordan.	Accredited to 31/12/22 Voluntary withdrawal 31/1/22

In addition to inspecting the pre-clinical medical school campus, ACCM carries out on-site inspections of all clinical facilities where the school maintains an educational presence and the administrative headquarters for the school, at least once during an accreditation cycle. The inspections conducted this past year are listed in Table 2. As a result of the travel restrictions imposed by COVID 19, many clinical site and administrative HQ inspections were conducted remotely by videoconference. A detailed inspection report, including recommendations and a request to respond to these recommendations, is sent to each medical school after all inspections. In the case of a full accreditation inspection of the pre-clinical campus the report is also shared with the government of the country. All medical schools who underwent an inspection responded in a timely manner and their response was deemed to be satisfactory.

Table 2. Summary of ACCM Inspection Activities by Accredited School. Five schools (All Saints University School of Medicine, Avalon University School of Medicine, Medical University of the Americas, St. James School of Medicine, and the University of Jordan Medical School) did not require inspections in 2021.

The only inspection conducted in-person in 2021 was the pre-clinical campus inspection to the American University of the Caribbean in St. Maarten. All other inspections were conducted via videoconference.

**Table 2**

<b>Inspection by School</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>American University of the Caribbean</b>	
Clinical Site (Virtual): St. Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, MD	March 31 <sup>st</sup> 2021
Pre - Clinical Campus Inspection, St.Maarten	November 8 -11 2021
<b>St. Matthew's University School of Medicine</b>	
Clinical Site (Virtual): St. John'sEpiscopal, NY	March 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Clinical Site (Virtual): Wyckoff Heights, NY	May 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
<b>University of Medicine and Health Sciences</b>	
Clinical Site (Virtual): Westchester General Hospital, FL	April 13th, 2021
Clinical Site (Virtual): San Juan City Hospital, Puerto Rico	April 19th, 2021
Clinical Site (Virtual): Huron Valley Sinai Hospital, MI	October 11th, 2021
Pre-Clinical Campus Inspection (Virtual), St. Kitts	November 1st - 3rd 2021

Xavier University School Of Medicine	
Clinical Site (Virtual): Wyckoff Heights, NY	May 7th, 2021

### New Applications

ACCM was approached about possible accreditation on behalf of a number of medical schools in the past year. After a preliminary review, it was decided that the following schools did not meet the ACCM policies, procedures and /or guidelines for accreditation. Therefore, these schools were not invited to proceed to the next level of assessment.

Caribbean Medical University	Curacao
Texila American University	Guyana
Hebron University, Arab American University, Palestinian Polytechnic University,	Palestine

The following schools were considered to meet the ACCM policies, procedures and /or guidelines to advance to the next step in the application process. Therefore, these schools have been asked to submit a more detailed application for review.

Hashemite University School of Medicine	Jordan
St. George's University School of Medicine	Grenada
Ponce Health Sciences University	British Virgin Islands
Al Balqa	Jordan

The following schools submitted detailed applications with all required documentation. As they appear to meet the policies, procedures and /or guidelines for accreditation they will undergo an onsite full accreditation inspection when travel restrictions are removed.

Arabian Gulf University (AGU)	Bahrain
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Jordan University of Science & Technology	Jordan
Al Balqa Applied University	Jordan

The following School underwent an in-person inspection in 2019. At that time the ACCM Board decided that the school did not sufficiently comply with the standards of accreditation so therefore accreditation at that point in time was denied. The school re-applied and underwent a virtual inspection in November 2021. Further information has been requested from the school.

Aureus University School of Medicine	Aruba
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### **Governance Activities**

Over the last year, the ACCM Board updated its Standards of Accreditation to ensure comparability with LCME and NCFMEA requirements. ACCM developed new procedures for cohort data collection from those medical schools that enrol students more than one a year. Additional new documents include a number of Standard Operating Policies. Finally, the ACCM website has been updated.

### **Policies for Accreditation**

The following Standard Operating Policies were either created in 2021 or underwent major revision:

- Review of New Applicant Schools
- ACCM Internal Procedures for Inspections
- Finance Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Procedures for accreditation

The ACCM Procedures for Accreditation are intended to provide schools of medicine with information about the accreditation process used by ACCM and are reviewed annually by the ACCM Board. These Procedures underwent substantial revision in 2020 and were updated in 2021 to align with the revised WFME Standards. These were distributed to all medical schools accredited or seeking accreditation by ACCM. The Procedures can be viewed on the ACCM website.

### **Standards for Accreditation**

The ACCM Standards for Accreditation are based on the guidelines of the LCME and are revised on a regular basis to ensure comparability with LCME, and NCFMEA requirements. They are also compatible with WFME Standards. Once approved, new or revised standards are published in the ACCM Standards of Accreditation for Schools of Medicine, in the Self-study Questionnaire and / or Annual Database Questionnaire. The ACCM Standards of Accreditation for Schools of Medicine are organized according to 13 accreditation standards. The ACCM will consider

performance in all the elements associated with each standard in the determination of the compliance of the programme with that standard. These revised Standards were circulated to all schools accredited by the ACCM in July 2020. These documents are also available on ACCM's website.

## **COVID - 19**

The ACCM Board responded to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in a number of ways.

The ACCM Board created a document entitled Guiding Principles for ACCM Operation During the COVID -19 Pandemic to define the ACCM guidelines and procedures for the conduct of virtual inspections. This policy document was distributed to all schools and is on the ACCM website.

Throughout the year, the Board monitored the LCME, NCFMEA and WFME websites for guidance during the pandemic.

An electronic survey was developed to evaluate how the ACCM accredited medical schools were adapting to the challenges of the pandemic. This survey was distributed every four months to coincide with each new student intake. All schools responded in a timely manner. In summary, all schools had pivoted from classroom teaching to a remote delivery platform and clinical rotations were suspended for a short period of time at the start of the pandemic. Clinical rotations were replaced by simulated case-based sessions. To date, none of the schools have experienced a decrease in enrolment or financial hardship. All schools are now transitioning back to in-person instruction for the basic sciences and clinical rotations have returned to pre-pandemic functioning.