

2022 ACCM Annual Report

Introduction

There have been no substantive changes in relation to the scope of activities performed by ACCM in 2022. 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 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 now accredits one medical school in Bahrain and currently has one medical school in Guyana at an advanced stage in the Accreditation process. Inspection visits to medical school pre-clinical, clinical, and administrative sites in the U.S., U.K., South America, and the middle east are undertaken by members of the Commission. The ACCM Board meets twice a year and at intervals as required. In 2022 both Board meetings occurred in-person. 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

In November 2022 ACCM completed a comparability redetermination submission for the Government of Grand Cayman and will present this at the NCFMEA Spring meeting in May 2023. In Feb 2023 ACCM also completed an initial comparability submission for the Government of Aruba.

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. In May 2022, Dr. Hilary Sanfey assumed the role of ACCM Chair, replacing Dr. Tony Peacock and Prof. David Croke replaced Dr. Sanfey as Honorary Secretary. In June 2022 Rachel Coleman was hired as the new administration Executive Assistant. Four new commissioners were appointed to the ACCM Board in May 2022: Professor Dame Jane Dacre, Ms. Fiona Myint, Professor Conor O'Keane and Dr. Roy Phitayakorn. Their biographical details are available on the ACCM website <https://accredmed.org/about-us/>

The Executive Management Group (EMG) met every 4- 6 weeks 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.

Overview

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 by February 1st, that evaluates the activities of the school in the most recent academic year. All eight medical schools accredited by ACCM for the year 2022 (Table 1) 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.

Please note 2 additional medical schools were accredited by ACCM in November 2022: The Arabian Gulf University College of Medicine & Medical Sciences in Bahrain and Aureus University School of Medicine in Aruba. They will complete and submit their first annual databases for the most recent academic year (July 2022 – June 2023) in 2024.

Table 1: Medical Schools Accredited by ACCM as of December 2022

School	Accreditation Status
All Saints University School of Medicine, Dominica.	Accredited for three years to 31/12/2025
American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine, Sint Maarten	Accredited for six years to 31/12/2027
Arabian Gulf University College of Medicine & Medical Sciences, Bahrain	Accredited for six years to 31/12/2028
Aureus University School of Medicine, Aruba	Conditional Accreditation for one year to 31/12/ 2023
Avalon University School of Medicine, Curacao.	Accredited for six years to 31/12/2028
Medical University of the Americas, Nevis	Accredited for three years to 31/12/2025
Saint James School of Medicine, St. Vincent & Grenadines & Anguilla	Accredited for three years to 31/12/2025
St. Matthew's University School of Medicine, Grand Cayman	Accredited for six years to 30/06/2025
University of Medicine and Health Sciences (UMHS), St. Kitts	Accredited for three years to 31/12/2024
Xavier University School of Medicine, Aruba	Accredited for six years to 31/12/2028

In addition to inspecting the pre-clinical medical school campus, ACCM carries out 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 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.

Eight full accreditation inspections were conducted in-person in 2022. These were six re-accreditation inspections (All Saints University Dominica, Avalon University Curacao, Medical University of the Americas Nevis, St. James School of Medicine St. Vincent & Grenadines, St. Matthews, University School of Medicine Grand Cayman and Xavier University School of Medicine in Aruba) and two first time full accreditation inspections (The Arabian Gulf University College of Medicine & Medical Sciences in Bahrain and Aureus University School of Medicine in Aruba). The Clinical Sites for The Arabian Gulf University College of Medicine & Medical Sciences in Bahrain and one clinical site in Dominica were the only clinical site inspections conducted in person (see Tables 2, 7 and Table 8 below). All other inspections were conducted via videoconference.

Table 2: Summary of ACCM Inspection Activities by Accredited School

Inspection by School	Date
All Saints University School of Medicine	
Pre-Clinical Campus Inspection Dominica	February 14 th – 16 th 2022
Clinical Site Dominica-China Friendship Hospital	February 15 th 2022
American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine	
Clinical Site (Virtual): Nassau University Medical Center	April 22 nd 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): Danbury Hospital	April 25 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital	April 28 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): Ascension Providence Hospital	April 28 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): Bronx Care Hospital Center	April 29 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): Kern Medical Center	May 6 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): Brentwood Behavioral Hospital	May 9 th 2022
Arabian Gulf University College of Medicine & Medical Sciences	
Pre-Clinical Campus Inspection Bahrain	October 18 th - 19 th 2022
Clinical Site: King Hamad University Hospital (KHUH)	October 20 th 2022
Clinical Site: Salmaniya Medical Complex	October 20 th 2022
Clinical Site: Mohammed Bin Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa Cardiac Centre	October 20 th 2022
Aureus University School of Medicine	
Pre-Clinical Campus Inspection Aruba	October 31 st – November 1 st 2022
Avalon University School of Medicine	
Pre-Clinical Campus Inspection), Curaçao	March 7 th – 9 th 2022
Medical University of the Americas	
Pre-Clinical Campus Inspection Nevis	June 6 th – 8 th 2022
Saint James School of Medicine	
Pre-Clinical Campus Inspection, Anguilla & St. Vincent & the Grenadines	May 9 th – 13 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): Beckley Appalachian Regional Healthcare	August 11 th 2022
St. Matthew's University School of Medicine	
Pre-Clinical Campus Inspection, Cayman Islands	May 9 th – 11 th 2022
University of Medicine and Health Sciences (UMHS)	
Clinical Site (Virtual): Georgia Regional Hospital	March 25 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): McLaren Oakland Hospital	April 13 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): Griffin Hospital	April 20 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital	April 28 th 2022

Clinical Site (Virtual): Danbury Hospital	May 5 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): Weiss Memorial Hospital	November 4 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): Ontario Shore Mental Health Centre, Whitby	December 7 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): Piedmont Augusta Hospital	November 10 th 2022
Xavier University School of Medicine	
Pre-Clinical Campus Inspection, Aruba	March 21 st – 23 rd 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): Montefiore New Rochelle Medical Center	September 7 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): MMS Northwest Hospital	September 12 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): Weiss Memorial Hospital	November 4 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): St. Agnes Hospital	November 8 th 2022
Clinical Site (Virtual): Jackson Park Hospital	November 15 th 2022

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 standards for accreditation. Therefore, these schools were not invited to proceed to the next level of assessment.

Table 3: Schools Reviewed but not Invited to Proceed to the next Stage .

School	Location
Bridgetown International University	Barbados
International American University College of Medicine	St. Lucia
JFK University School of Medicine	Curaçao
Newport University	Bangladesh
Spartan University	St. Lucia
St. Martinus University School of Medicine,	Curacao
University College of Medicine & Dentistry	Lahore

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

Table 4: Schools requested to submit detailed applications to ACCM.

School	Location
American International University West Africa	Gambia
Ross University School of Medicine	Barbados
St. George's University	Grenada
University of Science, Arts and Technology	Montserrat

The following school submitted a detailed application with all required documentation. As they appear to meet the policies, procedures and /or standards for accreditation they will undergo an onsite full accreditation inspection in 2023.

Table 5: Schools undergoing onsite full accreditation inspections in 2023.

School	Location
Texila American University College of Medicine	Guyana

The following developing school submitted a detailed initial application and in Nov 2022 was granted Applicant Status. The school is continuing to move through the application process at present.

Table 6: Schools granted Applicant Status

School	Location
The American Canadian School of Medicine	Dominica

The following school underwent an in-person inspection in 2022 and was granted 1-year conditional accreditation pending inspection of the clinical sites and administrative headquarter in 2023.

Table 7: Schools granted Conditional Accreditation

School	Location
Aureus University School of Medicine	Aruba

The following school underwent an in-person inspection in 2022 and was granted 6 years accreditation.

Table 8: Schools granted Accreditation.

School	Location
Arabian Gulf University College of Medicine & Medical Sciences	Bahrain

Governance Activities

In 2020, the ACCM Board updated its Standards of Accreditation to ensure comparability with LCME, WFME and NCFMEA requirements. ACCM developed new procedures for cohort data collection from those medical schools that enrol students more than once a year. Additional new documents include a number of Standard Operating Policies.

Updates to ACCM's Scope of Authority

ACCM has been granted authorisation and recognition by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as the accrediting agency for Bahrain this year and continues to act as the medical education accreditation body for the following countries/ territories/ kingdoms/ entities:

- Anguilla
- Aruba
- Belize
- Cayman Islands
- Commonwealth of Dominica
- Curaçao

- Federation of St. Kitts & Nevis
- Guyana
- Montserrat
- St. Maarten
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines

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

ACCM has accredited two new schools in the past year (see Table 9 below)

Table 9: New Schools accredited by ACCM in 2022

School	Location	Accreditation Granted
Aureus University School of Medicine	Aruba	1-year Conditional Accreditation
Arabian Gulf University College of Medicine & Medical Sciences	Bahrain	6-year Accreditation

Updates on Acceptance of Accreditation Decisions by Other Organisations

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) now accepts the decisions of ACCM as the accrediting agency for Bahrain. The governments of the following countries continue to accept the accreditation decisions made by the ACCM with regard to the schools that ACCM accredits in their countries.

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

ACCM has been recognised as having Standards of Accreditation Comparable to those of the LCME 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:

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ACCM has recently completed an initial comparability determination submission for the Government of Aruba.

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Policies and Procedures

There were no substantive policy changes made to the ACCM Standards or Procedures in 2022.

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.

Finance

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. All ACCM-accredited schools retained their registration and paid their fees in full. ACCM's finances remained stable in 2022 despite a noticeable increase in administration costs. These increases were reviewed in full by the ACCM finance committee and a thoughtful proposal of revised fees was put forward to the ACCM board in November 2022. These fees were approved by the ACCM board and came into effect January 2023. In the interests of financial transparency, ACCM financial accounts have been reviewed in the past by the NCFMEA and WFME and continue to be available for inspection if requested.