

## 2023 ACCM Annual Report

### Introduction

While the number of medical education programs accredited by ACCM has increased, there have been no substantive changes in relation to the scope of activities performed by ACCM in 2023. 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 one medical school in Guyana. 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 2023 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 May 2023 ACCM presented a comparability redetermination submission for the Government of Grand Cayman at the NCFMEA Spring meeting.

In Feb 2023 ACCM 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 2023, Prof. Sir Ian Gilmore assumed the role of ACCM Vice–Chair, replacing Prof. Brian Lawlor and Prof. Michael Turner assumed the role of ACCM Treasurer, replacing Mr. Philip Berman. 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 1<sup>st</sup>, that evaluates the activities of the school in the most recent academic year and notes any substantive change in the curriculum or operation of the medical school. All eight medical schools accredited by ACCM for the academic year July 2021 – June 2022 (Table 1) completed and submitted the required annual documentation in a timely manner. Database submissions are reviewed for accuracy and completion by an ACCM Board member. If there are concerns or questions, the school is contacted for an explanation with a set response date. The submissions were reviewed by a designated member of the ACCM Board and deemed to be satisfactory.

The Arabian Gulf University College of Medicine & Medical Sciences in Bahrain received accreditation in November 2022 and Texila American University College of Medicine in Guyana received accreditation in May 2023. They will complete and submit their first annual databases for the most recent academic year (July 2022 – June 2023) in 2024.

One developing medical school was granted preliminary accreditation by ACCM in June 2023; The American Canadian School of Medicine in Dominica matriculated the first class of medical students in August 2023 and is now listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools.

Table 1: Medical Schools Accredited by ACCM as of December 2023

School	Accreditation Status
All Saints University School of Medicine, Dominica	Accredited for three years to 31/12/2025
American Canadian School of Medicine, Dominica	Preliminarily accredited since 28/06/2023
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
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
Texila American University College of Medicine, Guyana	Accredited for six years to 30/06/2029
University of Medicine and Health Sciences (UMHS), St. Kitts	Accredited for three years to 30/06/2025
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. 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.

Four full accreditation inspections were conducted in-person in 2023. These were two full accreditation inspections of a pre-clinical campus (Texila American University College of Medicine, Guyana and American Canadian School of Medicine, Dominica), one mid-cycle full accreditation inspection of a branch campus (American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine, UCLan, Preston, UK) and one first time inspection of a school (All Saints University School of Medicine, St. Vincent & Grenadines) applying to be accredited as a branch campus of All Saints University School of Medicine, Dominica.

One Non-Routine Pre-Clinical Campus Inspection was conducted virtually in 2023 (St. Matthew’s University School of Medicine), one Fifth Semester Campus Inspection was conducted in-person in 2023 (University of Medicine and Health Sciences) and one School Headquarters inspection was conducted in-person in 2023 (Aureus University School of Medicine).

Of the 19 clinical site inspections conducted in 2023, two were conducted virtually and the remainder were conducted in-person.

Table 2: Summary of ACCM Inspection Activities by Accredited School

Inspection by School	Date
<b>All Saints University School of Medicine</b>	
Branch Campus Inspection St. Vincents & the Grenadines	October 9 <sup>th</sup> – October 11 <sup>th</sup> 2023
<b>American Canadian School of Medicine</b>	
Pre-Clinical Campus Inspection Dominica	June 12 <sup>th</sup> – June 13 <sup>th</sup> 2023
<b>American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine</b>	
Clinical Site: Center for Haitian Studies	October 4 <sup>th</sup> 2023
Clinical Site: Chelsea and Westminster Hospitals (NHS Foundation Trust)	December 5 <sup>th</sup> 2023
Branch Campus Inspection Preston	October 19 <sup>th</sup> – October 20 <sup>th</sup> 2023
Clinical Site (virtual): Ealing Hospital and Central Middlesex Hospital (London North West University Healthcare National Health Service Trust)	December 6 <sup>th</sup> 2023
<b>Aureus University School of Medicine</b>	
School Headquarters Inspection New Jersey	April 10 <sup>th</sup> 2023
Clinical Site: Insight Hospital & Medical Center	April 11 <sup>th</sup> 2023
Clinical Site: Copley Memorial Hospital, Inc	April 12 <sup>th</sup> 2023
<b>Avalon University School of Medicine</b>	
Clinical Site: Hinsdale Hospital	October 30 <sup>th</sup> 2023
Clinical Site: La Grange Memorial Hospital	October 30 <sup>th</sup> 2023
Clinical Site: Glen Oaks Hospital	October 31 <sup>st</sup> 2023
Clinical Site: Bolingbrook Hospital	October 31 <sup>st</sup> 2023
<b>Medical University of the Americas</b>	
Clinical Site: Miami Rescue Mission	October 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2023
Clinical Site: Community Health of South Florida Hospital (CHI)	October 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2023
Clinical Site: Mission Community Hospital	October 9 <sup>th</sup> 2023
<b>St. Matthew’s University School of Medicine</b>	

Clinical Site: Miami Rescue Mission	October 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2023
Clinical Site: Community Health of South Florida Hospital (CHI)	October 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2023
Clinical Site (virtual): Southwestern Vermont Medical Center	September 13 <sup>th</sup> 2023
Non-Routine Pre-Clinical Campus Inspection Grand Cayman (virtual)	June 21 <sup>st</sup> 2023
<b>Texila American University College of Medicine</b>	
Pre-Clinical Campus Inspection Guyana	March 27 <sup>th</sup> – March 29 <sup>th</sup> 2023
Clinical Site: Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation	March 29 <sup>th</sup> 2023
Clinical Site: Tucson Medical Center	October 11 <sup>th</sup> 2023
<b>University of Medicine and Health Sciences (UMHS)</b>	
Fifth Semester Campus Inspection Maine	November 9 <sup>th</sup> 2023
<b>Xavier University School of Medicine</b>	
Clinical Site: Mercy Medical Center	April 17 <sup>th</sup> 2023
Clinical Site: Saint Joseph's Medical Center	April 18 <sup>th</sup> 2023

### 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
American University of Anguilla	Anguilla
American University of Sint Maarten	Sint Maarten
East-West University	Georgia
Frantz Fanon University	Somalia
International Postgraduate Medical College	Jamaica
St. Joseph University Ltd.	Dominica

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 University School of Medicine Aruba	Aruba
Georgetown American University	Guyana
Ponce Health Sciences University School of Medicine - British Virgin Islands	British Virgin Islands
Poznan University of Medical Sciences	Poland

Poznan University of Medical Sciences withdrew their application as the Polish Accreditation Committee is awaiting WFME recognition.

The following developing school submitted a detailed initial application and in June 2023 was granted Applicant Status. The school is continuing to move through the application process at present and they will undergo an onsite full accreditation inspection in 2024.

Table 5: Schools granted Applicant Status.

School	Location
Ponce Health Sciences University School of Medicine - British Virgin Islands	British Virgin Islands

The following school underwent an in-person inspection in 2023 and was granted 6 years accreditation.

Table 6: Schools granted Accreditation.

School	Location
Texila American University College of Medicine	Guyana

The following developing school underwent an in-person inspection in 2023 and was granted preliminary accreditation.

Table 7: Schools granted Preliminary Accreditation.

School	Location
American Canadian School of Medicine	Dominica

The following school received Conditional Accreditation from the ACCM for one year in November 2022. Following a review by the ACCM in 2023 the school has withdrawn from ACCM Accreditation by mutual agreement.

Table 8: Schools withdrawn from Accreditation.

School	Location
Aureus University School of Medicine	Aruba

### 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.

The ACCM will have a Strategic Planning Day in May 2024. At this time ACCM will conduct a full review of the organization’s governance, operations, and standards.

### Updates to ACCM’s Scope of Authority

ACCM continues to act as the medical education accreditation body for the following countries/ territories/ kingdoms/ entities:

- Anguilla
- Aruba

- Bahrain
- 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 or Montserrat.

ACCM has a letter of Resolution from the Government of British Virgin Islands (BVI) recognizing ACCM as the medical education accrediting body for BVI.

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

Table 9: New Schools accredited by ACCM in 2023

<b>School</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Accreditation Granted</b>
Texila American University College of Medicine	Guyana	6-year Accreditation
American Canadian School of Medicine	Dominica	Preliminary Accreditation

#### **Updates on Acceptance of Accreditation Decisions by Other Organisations**

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.

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

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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### **Updates on external changes which affect the operations of ACCM**

The Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine (ACCM) accredits medical education programs in Curacao (Avalon University School of Medicine), Bahrain (Arabian Gulf University College of Medicine & Medical Sciences) and in Dominica (American Canadian School of Medicine, Dominica, and All Saints University School of Medicine). In the last year, the following agencies have received WFME recognition in Bahrain (Education and Training Quality Authority) and in Curacao (Agency for Accreditation of Educational Programs and Organizations). In addition, the American Canadian School of Medicine, Dominica is accredited by the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating. To date, these changes have not impacted the operation of ACCM in these three countries.

### **Policies and Procedures**

The ACCM Procedures for Accreditation are intended to provide schools of medicine with information about the accreditation process used by ACCM. These Procedures underwent substantial revision in 2020 and were updated in 2021 to align with the revised WFME Standards.

The ACCM Accreditation Procedures were revised in 2023 and are available on the [website](#). The significant changes to the Procedures included clarification of the criteria for Probation (P.7), Withdrawal of Accreditation (P.8) and Conditional Accreditation for new schools (P.9). The section on Establishment of a Branch Campus was expanded (P.16) and the sections on Reconsideration and Appeal (Appendix 5) have been re-written for clarification.

### **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.

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.