

Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions

WELCOME

This is the first issue in what will be the quarterly publication of the CAAM NEWSLETTER. We hope this Newsletter will suit your interests and information needs. Please communicate any comments and suggestions to the CAAM Secretariat.

CAAM and Accreditation

What is CAAM

The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM) is the legally constituted body established to accredit medical, dental, veterinary and other health professions programmes leading to professional degrees required for practise in member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). It was set up with the aim to ensure that schools in participating countries in CARICOM are recognised to be of international standard at the national, regional and international levels.

The CAAM is in its fourth year of operation since its launch in July 2004.

What is Accreditation

Accreditation is an objective peer review process designed to attest to the educational quality of new, developing and established educational programmes.

Why Accreditation

Accreditation assures that educational programmes are in compliance with defined standards and as such plays the role of affirming the quality of education and the validity of certification.

Through accreditation, the CAAM provides assurance to medical, dental and veteri-

nary students, graduates, the medical, dental and veterinary professions, health care institutions and the public, both regionally and internationally, that undergraduate programmes leading to qualifications in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine meet appropriate national and international standards for educational quality, and that the graduates have a sufficiently complete and valid educational experience.

The accreditation exercise also promotes institutional and programme improvement.

CAAM and CARICOM

The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM) was established under the aegis of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). It is funded by member states of CARICOM which are parties to the Agreement establishing the Authority. CAAM has a

responsibility to report to the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD), which is an organ of CARICOM. Notwithstanding however, the CAAM is an independent 'stand alone' body and as such acts independently of the participating countries of CARICOM.

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UK Government Announces Formal Recognition of CAAM

The Government of the United Kingdom has given formal recognition to the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM) as the authority responsible for the accreditation of New and Developing Medical Schools for British Overseas Territories in the Caribbean.

In a letter from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, it was communicated that Her Maj-

esty's Government (HMG) recognises CAAM as the official accreditation authority for new and developing medical schools in the Caribbean Overseas Territories. It was also communicated that HMG would endorse a new medical school for a listing in the World Health Organisation World Directory of Medical Schools and/or the International Medical Education Directory (IMED-FAIMER) once CAAM is satisfied that the insti-

tution is ready to admit its first class of students and has issued initial provisional accreditation.

A reference note which sets out HMG policy for accreditation of new and developing medical schools in the Caribbean Overseas Territories has been issued to territory governments and the Governors' Offices. This is also available on the CAAM website at www.caam-hp.org/starttheprocess.html.

Accreditation of Veterinary Education Programmes

The documents for Veterinary Medicine have been finalised and subsequently CAAM has written to institutions offering training in veterinary medicine informing them of its readiness to begin the accreditation of veterinary education programmes.

Where the CAAM is treating with Veterinary Medicine, membership of the Authority will be extended to include two persons nominated jointly by academic institutions offering training in veterinary medicine in the Community (ie. the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)) and two students enrolled in training programmes in veterinary medicine in institutions in the Community nominated jointly by those institutions.

Upcoming Site Visit

Ross University located on the island of Dominica has initiated the accreditation process for the accreditation of its medical education programme. The site visit has been scheduled for June 7-14, 2008.

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Visit the CAAM website at www.caam-hp.org.