



# MEDICAL EDUCATION ACCREDITATION IN THE CARIBBEAN

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Professionals (TAICEP)

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# Presentation Outline

- ▶ The Caribbean Region
- ▶ Background to the Development of Medical Education and Medical Education Accreditation in the Caribbean
- ▶ Establishment of the CAAM-HP
- ▶ Accreditation System of the CAAM-HP
- ▶ Activities and Achievements to Date
- ▶ Concluding Comments

# The Caribbean



# Background

## Caribbean Medical Education

- ▶ **Where it began:** in 1948 at the University College of the West Indies (UCWI, now the University of the West Indies (UWI)) with 33 students
  - ▶ The UWI expanded over time and is now a regional, multi-campus institution
- ▶ **Accreditation and recognition:** by the GMC, until 2001
- ▶ 2001: GMC discontinued accreditation of overseas programmes

# Background

## Caribbean Medical Education

- ▶ Other traditional medical schools also established at:
  - ▶ University of Suriname, 1969;
  - ▶ University of Guyana, 1985

# Background

## Caribbean Medical Education (cont'd)

- ▶ From the 1970s onwards came an influx of **offshore medical schools** with an almost exclusive international student population
  - ▶ St George's University School of Medicine, 1977
  - ▶ Ross University School of Medicine, 1978
  - ▶ 40% growth since the year 2000
- ▶ **IMED data**: Over 30 offshore medical schools in the English speaking Caribbean
- ▶ **FAIMER data, 2007**: Caribbean region has the highest density of medical schools per capita

# Background

<b>Caribbean Countries with Offshore Medical Schools</b>					
<b>Anguilla</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>Antigua</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>Aruba</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>Barbados</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>Belize</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>Bonaire</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>Curacao</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>Dominica</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>Grand Cayman</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>Grenada</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>Guyana</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>Jamaica</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>Montserrat</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>Saba</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>St Eustatius</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>St Kitts &amp; Nevis</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>St Lucia</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>St Marteen</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>St Vincent &amp; the Grenadines</b>	<b>(2)</b>				

# Background

<b>Medical Schools Per Capita - FAIMER, 2007</b> (medical schools per 1 million inhabitants)	
<b>Caribbean Region</b>	<b>1.42</b>
<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>0.60</b>
<b>North America</b>	<b>0.50</b>



# Background

## Caribbean Offshore Medical Schools- *Pull factors*

- ▶ Low MCAT scores
- ▶ Proximity to the US
- ▶ Familiar language of instruction- English
- ▶ Flexible academic calendar
- ▶ Lower tuition fees
- ▶ The desire to fulfil the dream of becoming a medical doctor

# Background

## Caribbean Offshore Medical Schools- *Some issues*

- ▶ The tendency to lump Caribbean medical schools without distinction
- ▶ Inadequate resources for clinical training
- ▶ The absence of appropriate accreditation mechanism (prior to CAAM-HP)
- ▶ Governments encourage their establishment for potential economic gain
- ▶ The granting of a charter being the sole requirement to operate

# Background

## Quality Assurance Attempts

Some countries have taken steps to establish national quality assurance systems but not without challenges such as:

- ▶ Dearth of requisite competence
- ▶ Difficulty in providing independent external reviewers, given the closeness of small states in general and particularly in the same professional field
- ▶ Differences in the types of systems available

# Establishment of CAAM-HP

## The Response: The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP)

- ▶ A regional accreditation body established in 2014 under the *aegis* of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- ▶ Set up in the context of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)
- ▶ Functions to accredit degree level programmes in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, nursing and other health professions

# Establishment of CAAM-HP

- ▶ **CARICOM**: an economic and political affiliation of 15 countries
- ▶ **CAAM-HP Agreement**: 13 CARICOM member states are signatories
- ▶ **Financial provisions**: primarily from CARICOM
- ▶ CAAM-HP headquarters located in Jamaica; Act of Parliament passed in 2006 and is in effect. Other member states have passed similar legislation.

# Establishment of CAAM-HP

## Membership

- ▶ Represented by-
  - ▶ universities
  - ▶ students
  - ▶ civil society
  - ▶ professional associations
  - ▶ external professionals

# Establishment of CAAM-HP

## Objectives

- ▶ To achieve and maintain standards of excellence in programmes of education in medicine and other health professions;
- ▶ To establish an efficient system of regulation in relation to the standards and quality of such programmes of education;
- ▶ To secure international recognition of the programmes of education in medicine and other health professions;
- ▶ To maintain the confidence of the peoples of the region in the quality of medical and other health professions training offered in the region.

# Accreditation System

- ▶ Similar to the **LCME's**;
- ▶ Functions with a clear authoritative mandate;
- ▶ Operates independently of governments and institutions;
- ▶ Uses predefined profession-specific standards and transparent procedures.



# Accreditation System

- ▶ The accreditation standards address:
  - ▶ The Institutional Setting
  - ▶ Students
  - ▶ Educational Programme
  - ▶ Faculty
  - ▶ Educational Resources
  - ▶ Internship
  - ▶ Continuing Professional Education

# Accreditation System

## The Standards:

- ▶ Compilation took into account regional circumstances and international standards;
- ▶ Written to give assurance of the quality of training
  - ▶ However, graduates must meet standards for independent practice, as reflected in CAAM-HP's standards for Internship and as determined by the **Caribbean Association of Medical Councils (CAMC)**.

# Accreditation System

Accreditation seeks to establish the following:

- ▶ What are the objectives of the medical education programme?
- ▶ Has the institution organised its programme and resources to accomplish these objectives?
- ▶ What is the evidence that the school is accomplishing its objectives?

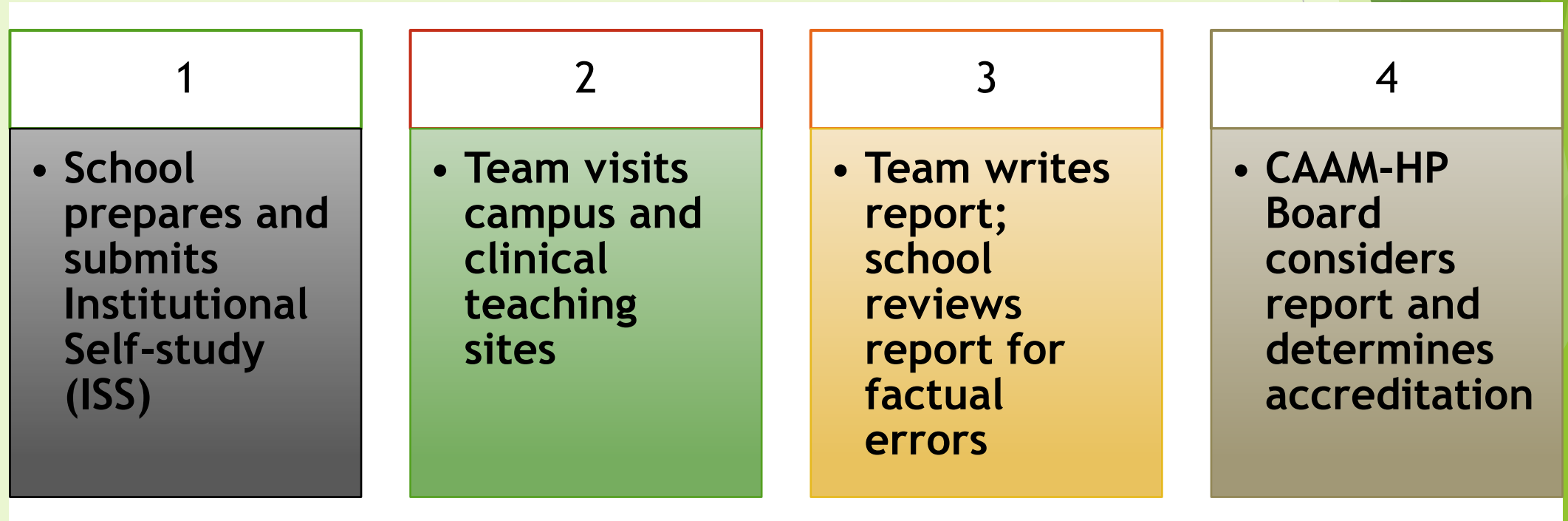
# Accreditation System

## General aims of the process:

- ▶ To certify the quality of a programme;
- ▶ To promote institutional self-evaluation and improvement;
- ▶ To assure stakeholders of the qualifications of graduates.

# Accreditation System

General steps in the process:



# Activities and Achievements to Date

- ▶ Accreditation Exercises
  - ▶ Site visits
  - ▶ Evaluation of proposals for the establishment of new schools
- ▶ Development of Standards for other Health Professions
- ▶ Workshops and Consultancy
- ▶ International Recognition
- ▶ Conferences
- ▶ Successful NCFMEA Comparability Determinations

# Activities and Achievements to Date

## ACCREDITATION EXERCISES CONDUCTED – *Site Visits*

- ▶ **The University of the West Indies (UWI)**- medical programme, 2006, 2012 & 2016; veterinary medicine programme, 2009 & 2016; dental education programme: St Augustine Campus, 2010 & 2014; Mona Campus, 2015
- ▶ **University of Guyana School of Medicine**, 2006 & 2013
- ▶ **St George's University School of Medicine**, Grenada, 2007, 2011 & 2015
- ▶ **Ross University School of Medicine**, Dominica, 2008 & 2014
- ▶ **American University of Antigua (AUA) College of Medicine**, 2011 & 2014
- ▶ **University of Science, Arts & Technology (USAT)**, Montserrat, 2007 & 2011

# Activities and Achievements to Date

## ACCREDITATION EXERCISES CONDUCTED – *Site Visits*

- ▶ **Avalon University School of Medicine**, Curacao, 2013 & 2016
- ▶ **Spartan Health Sciences University**, St Lucia, 2013 & 2015
- ▶ **Xavier University School of Medicine**, Aruba, 2013 & 2015
- ▶ **Windsor University School of Medicine**, St Kitts, 2014
- ▶ **International American University College of Medicine**, St Lucia, 2015
- ▶ **Trinity School of Medicine**, St Vincent and the Grenadines, 2015
- ▶ **Saint James School of Medicine**, Anguilla, 2015



# Activities and Achievements to Date

## ACCREDITATION EXERCISES CONDUCTED – *Evaluation of proposals for the establishment of new schools*

- ▶ CAAM-HP evaluates proposals for the establishment of new, for-profit schools in the region and monitors their development annually for the first four years of their operations.

# Activities and Achievements to Date

## DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS FOR OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS

- ▶ Standards have also been developed for:
  - ▶ Dental Medicine
  - ▶ Veterinary Medicine
  - ▶ Nursing
- ▶ Standards are being developed for:
  - ▶ Human Nutrition and Dietetics

# Activities and Achievements to Date

WORKSHOPS AND CONSULTANCY – (These serve to assist in the interpretation of standards and to advise on the accreditation process)

- ▶ To orient new members
- ▶ To train potential surveyors
- ▶ To guide schools preparing for site visits
- ▶ To assist those setting up new schools

# Activities and Achievements to Date

## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

- ▶ The CAAM-HP has the responsibility to establish affiliations and secure international recognition.
- ▶ Increasing international interest has led to several initiatives.
  - ▶ A relationship has been forged with the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME).

# Activities and Achievements to Date

## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

### CAAM-HP's membership in:

- ▶ International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)
- ▶ Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE)
- ▶ Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)
- ▶ CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG)
- ▶ International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA)

and...

# Activities and Achievements to Date

## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

...CAAM-HP's participation in meetings of the

- ▶ Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB)
- ▶ Administrators in Medicine (AIM)
- ▶ ECFMG

- have provided international exposure.

# Activities and Achievements to Date

## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

- ▶ Formal recognition from the UK Government, January 2008
- ▶ International Recognition, May 2012 – WFME/FAIMER Recognition Team

# Activities and Achievements to Date

## CONFERENCES

- ▶ **Invitational Conference** on Accreditation of *Medical Education Programmes in the Caribbean* in 2007, with assistance from **ECFMG** and **WFME**.
- ▶ **Tenth Anniversary Conference** held July 28-30, Montego Bay, Jamaica under the theme *Coming of Age: Lessons from the Past, Strategies for the Future*.



# Activities and Achievements to Date

## SUCCESSFUL NCFMEA COMPARABILITY DETERMINATIONS

- ▶ Antigua & Barbuda, 2013 (up for redetermination in 2016)
- ▶ Jamaica, 2014
- ▶ Grenada, 2016
- ▶ Barbados, pending
- ▶ St Vincent & the Grenadines, pending

# Concluding Comments

- ▶ Schools have acknowledged the usefulness of the process including, *inter alia*, the importance of regular accreditation for quality assurance.
- ▶ The development of CAAM-HP is a positive step towards promoting quality medical education in the region.
- ▶ Despite the success, challenges remain such as the reluctance of nursing schools to be accredited.
- ▶ Still, CAAM-HP looks forward to progress.

**END OF PRESENTATION**

**THANK YOU!**