

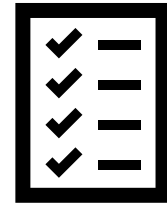
The Quality of Medical Education Around the World. What Is Accreditation and Why Accreditation?

ASCOFAME Global Congress on Medical Education
March 25, 2019

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President & CEO, ECFMG
Chair, Board of Directors, FAIMER
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Today's Discussion

- ECFMG and FAIMER Overview
- ECFMG Certification & Related Programs
- What Is Accreditation?
- Why Accreditation?
- ECFMG's 2023 Accreditation Initiative
- WFME Recognition Programme
- Resources





ECFMG®

+

FAIMER®

Educational Commission
for Foreign Medical Graduates
Est. 1956

Foundation for Advancement
of International Medical
Education and Research
Est. 2000

*Non-profit, non-governmental organization
dedicated to protecting the public and improving
medical education worldwide*

Services Overview



- ECFMG Certification
- International and domestic credential verification services
- Clinical skills assessment in conjunction with the NBME®
- Programs to support IMGs applying for graduate medical education



- Has several programs to support health professions educators
- Conducts research
- Builds data resources on medical education

FAIMER Programs for Health Professions Educators

FAIMER Institute Fellowship in Medical Education

- Part-Time Fellowship Program (2 years)
- Financial Support Available

FAIMER-Keele University Distance Learning in Accreditation & Assessment

- Certificate Program (1 year)
- Diploma Program (2 years)
- Master's Program (3 years)

FAIMER Regional Institutes

- Africa
- Brazil
- Chile
- China
- Egypt (2019)
- India
- Indonesia (2019)

~1,600 FAIMER Fellows worldwide

FAIMER Research Activities

International Migration of
Physicians

United States Physician
Workforce Issues

International Medical
Education Programs

FAIMER Data Resources

- World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) and FAIMER Partnership
- Lists information on 3,100+ medical schools



International Student Exchange (GEMx)

- Provides international perspectives in medical education
- Participating institutions are throughout the world
- Web-based system selecting an exchange program
- GEMx does not charge participating students and in some cases offers grants

GEMx Partner Institutions offer a wide range of elective opportunities. Some examples include:

- Maternal and Fetal Medicine
- Addiction Psychiatry
- Tropical Medicine
- Transplant Hepatology
- Anesthesiology
- Mastology
- Sports Medicine
- Thoracic Surgery
- Acupuncture
- Public Health and Epidemiology
- Nuclear Medicine
- Medical Genetics
- Pediatric Infectious Diseases
- Radiation Oncology
- Trauma, Orthopedics, and Rehabilitation

Primary-source Verification for International MRAs (through EPIC)

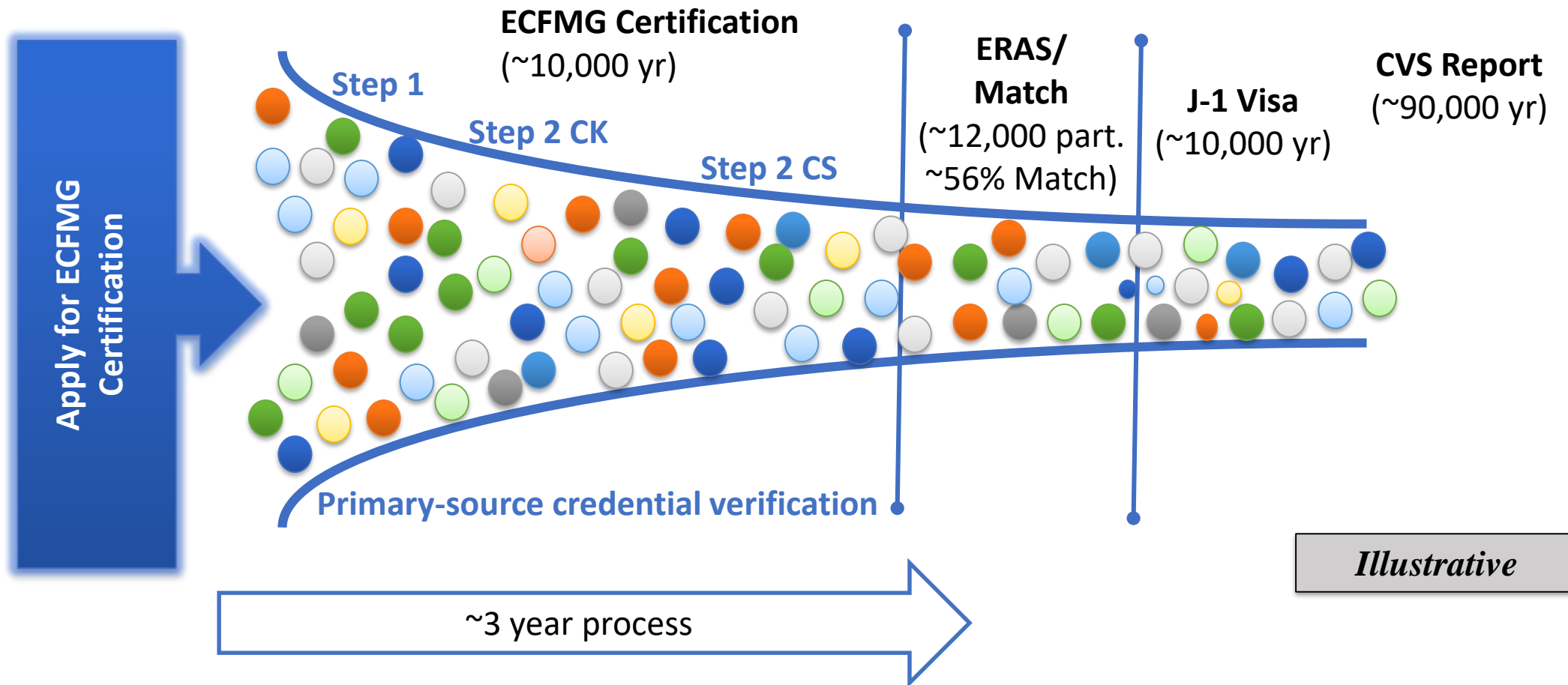
Europe	Australasia	North America & The Caribbean	Africa	Middle East
Denmark	Australia	Bahamas	Ghana	Kuwait
Ireland	New Zealand	Canada*	Namibia	
Norway		Sint Maarten	Nigeria	
United Kingdom			South Africa	
			Swaziland	
			Zimbabwe	

** Canada uses a custom developed software program, not EPIC.*

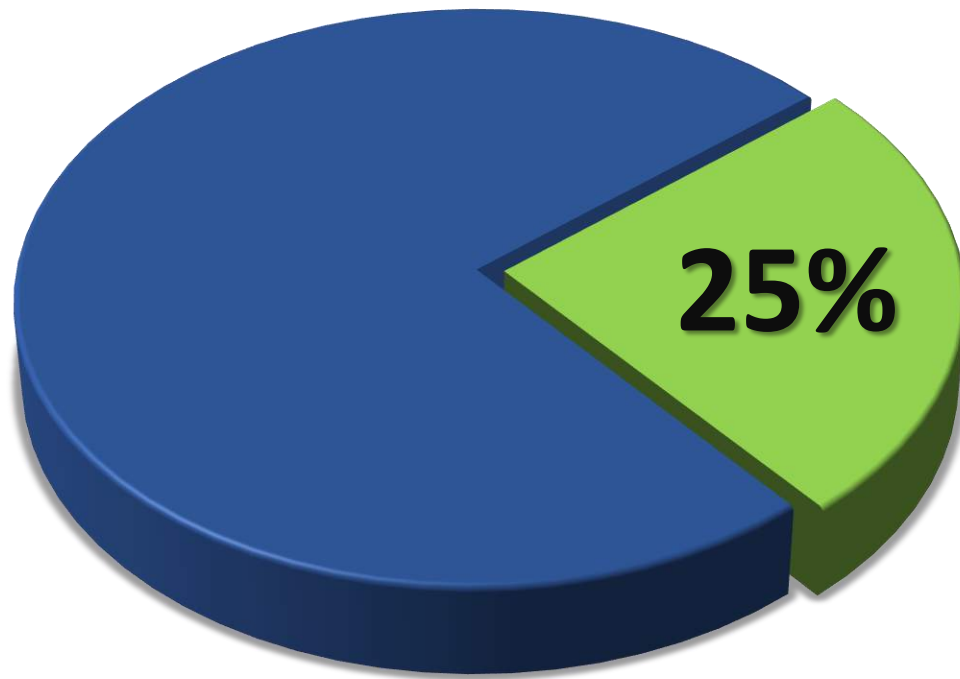
ECFMG Certification Program Requirements

- Medical school meets ECFMG requirements
- Applicant passes USMLE® Step 1, 2CK, and 2CS
- Primary-source verification of diploma and transcript with medical school
- Applicants screened against the Specially Designated Nationals List
 - Maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of US Dept. of the Treasury
 - Includes terrorists and narcotics traffickers

ECFMG Certification & Related Programs



IMGs Practicing in the United States



International medical graduates (IMGs) comprise **25%** of the U.S. physician workforce

Total IMGs practicing in the United States:

218,540

Source: AAMC 2018 Physician Specialty Data Report

Centered on Individual Assessment



Individuals

Schools

Exams

Time in School

Transfer
Credits

Credentials +
PSV

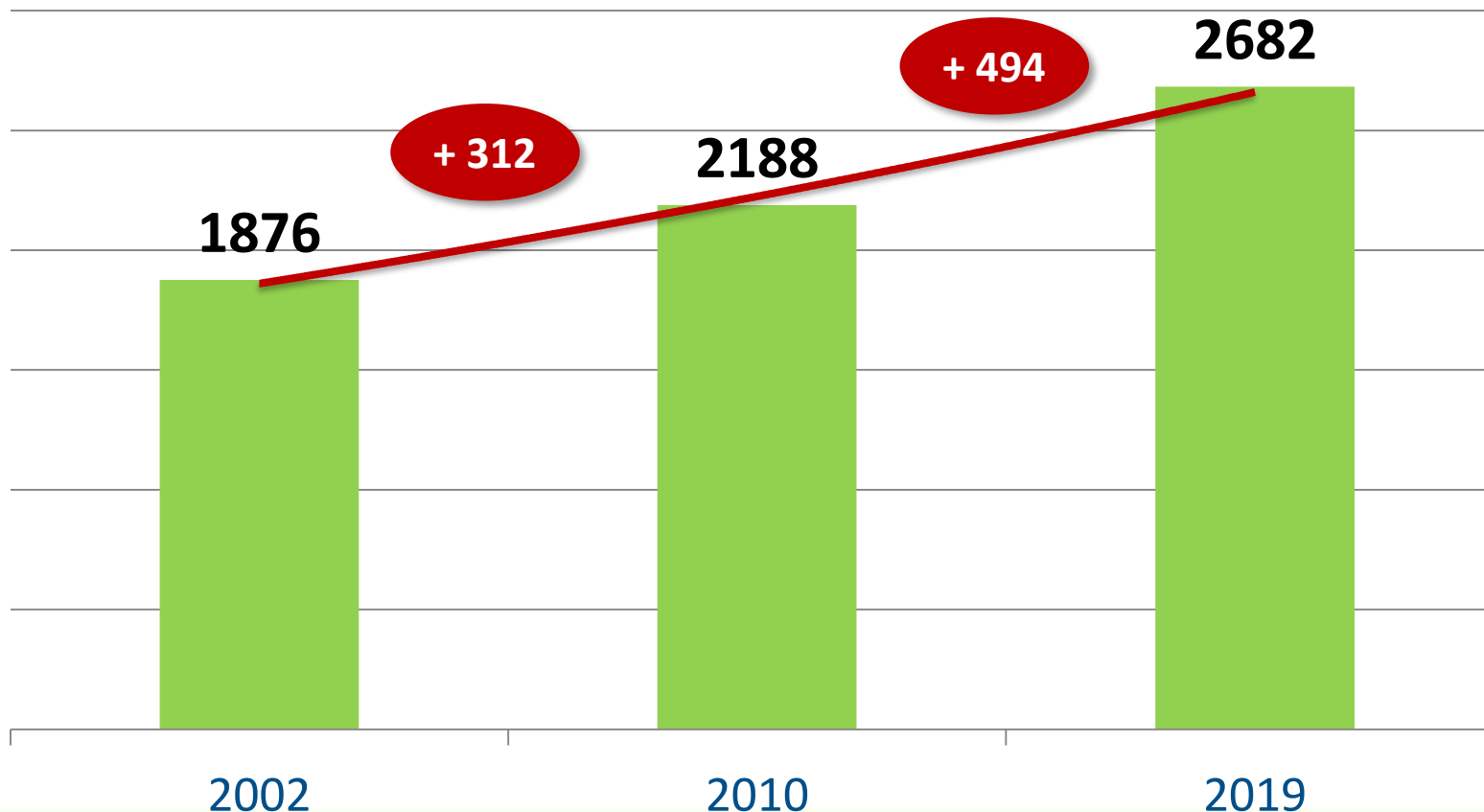
Eligible for
Licensure



Proliferation of Medical Schools

The *World Directory of Medical Schools* currently lists **3,171** medical schools in operation. Of that, **85%** (2,682) are acceptable for ECFMG Certification.

Total # of Schools Acceptable for ECFMG Certification



**43% increase
from 2002 to
2019**

In the Caribbean alone,
there are **75** medical
schools currently
acceptable to ECFMG

Source: ECFMG/FAIMER

2010 Report Concerns

- Some schools are issued a one-time permit to operate without follow-up
- 1/3 of countries do not have an accreditation program
- Accreditation, if available, is not always mandatory
- Significant variation of systems, duration, and standards
- Accrediting agencies differ in the specific protocols employed in implementing quality assurance reviews



Lack of
oversight
or self-
regulation

Centered on Individual Assessment



Individuals

Schools



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Lack of oversight or self-regulation

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Source: ECFMG/FAIMER

Makes it challenging to unequivocally ensure that IMGs meet basic medical knowledge requirements

2010 Board Resolution

Effective in 2023, physicians applying for ECFMG Certification will be required to graduate from a medical school that has been appropriately accredited, and the accrediting agency must be recognized.

“2023 accreditation”

Why Accreditation?

Some definitions

Accreditation is a process by which a designated authority reviews and evaluates an educational institution or program against a clearly defined set of standards.



Why Accreditation?

Some definitions

*“...a system for recognizing...programs for a level of performance, **integrity and quality** that entitles them to the **confidence** of the educational community and the public”*

American Dental Association

www.ada.org

Why Accreditation?

Some definitions

*“...a collegial process of **self-review and peer review** for **improvement** of academic quality and **public accountability** of institutions and programs”*

Council on Higher Education Accreditation

www.chea.org

Why Accreditation?

Self-assessment

External review

Public accountability

Improvement

Why Accreditation?

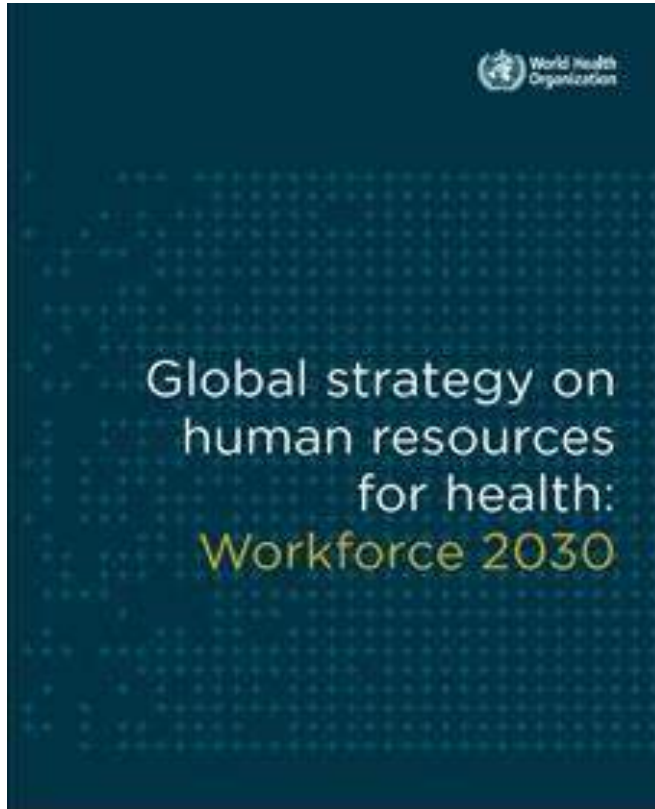
- 170+ countries/territories have operating medical schools
- Proliferation of medical schools (3,100+ currently listed in *World Directory of Medical Schools*)
- 100+ countries have accreditation systems
- Global variation in standards
- Globalization of medicine



2023 Accreditation Requirement Goals

- Catalyze international accreditation efforts
- Develop universally accepted standards for evaluating undergraduate medical education
- Enhance quality of medical education
- Protect the public

Aligned with Other Global Initiatives



WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health

Milestones:

1.1 By **2020**, all countries will have established accreditation mechanisms for health training institutions.

2016



A Little More Balanced Approach



Individuals

Schools

Exams

Time in School

Transfer
Credits

Credentials +
PSV

Accredited

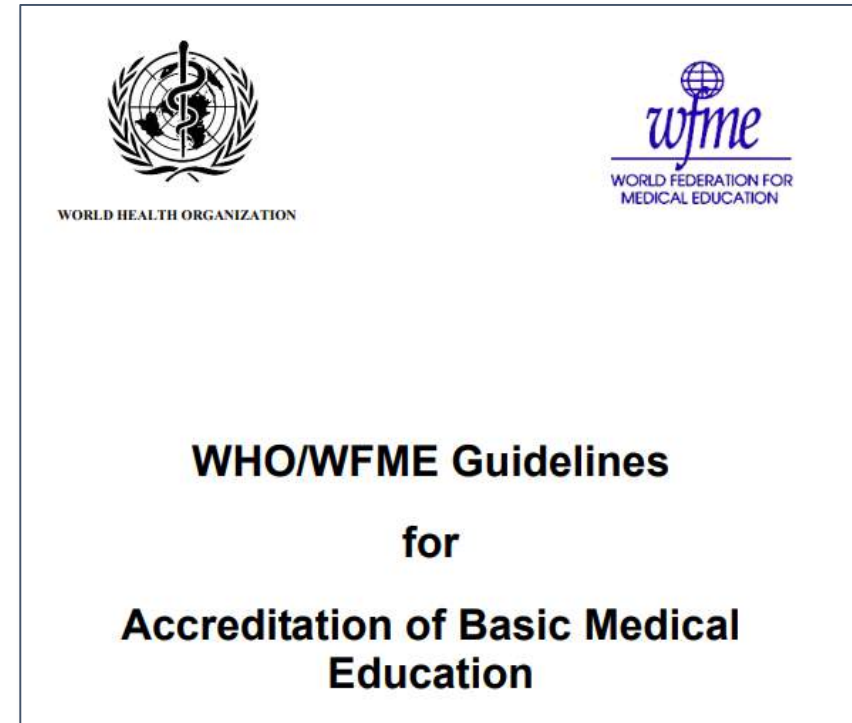
Eligible for
Licensure



...and How

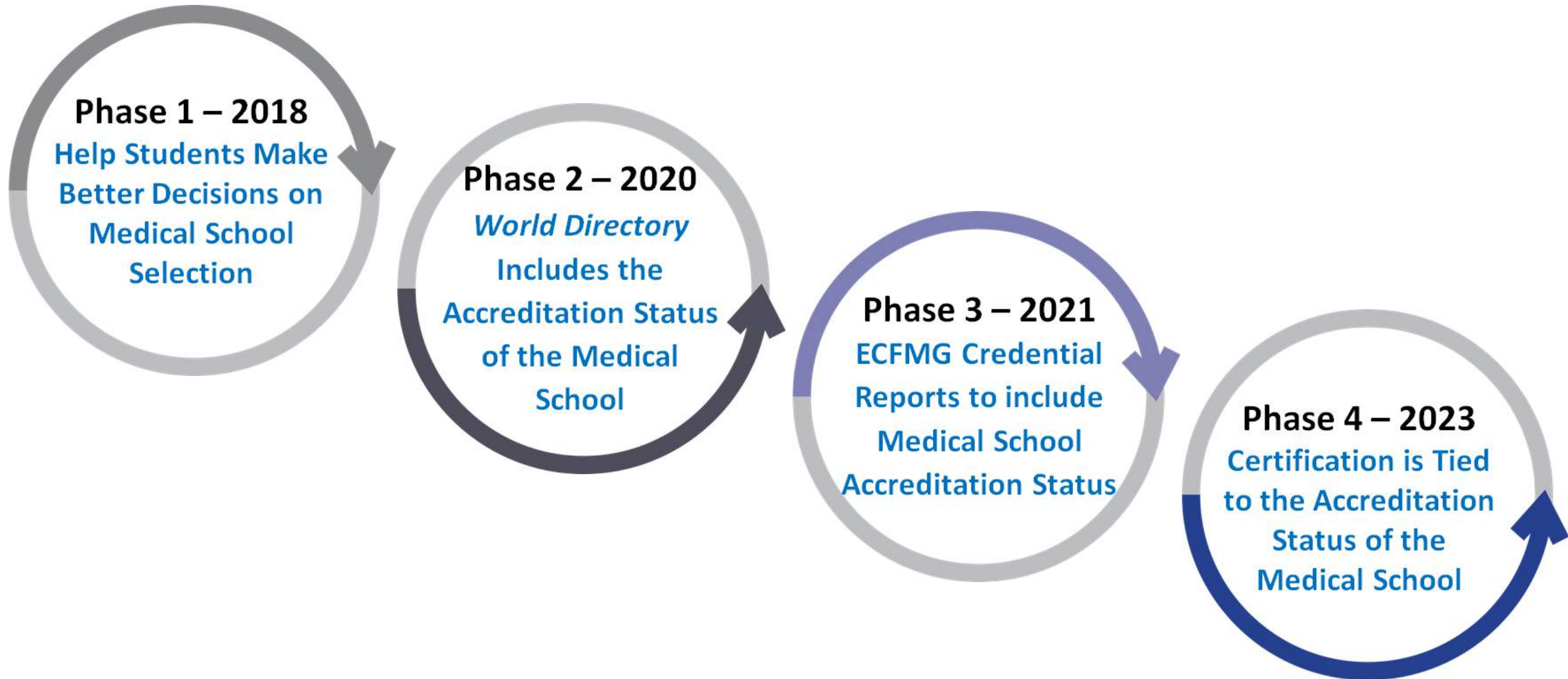


**Recognition Programme for
Accrediting Agencies**



WFME recognition criteria based on
guidelines developed by WHO and WFME

Implementation Approach: Four Phases



Ultimately, It's About the *Patients*

Better Education ➡ Better Patient Care

- Patients deserve well-educated doctors
- Patients, program directors, and MRAs rely on ECFMG Certification and the high standard it represents
- Accreditation fosters greater transparency and public trust





*A rising tide lifts
all boats*

Benefits Beyond Borders

Resources

- Updates from ECFMG at www.ecfmg.org/accreditation
- WFME *Recognition Programme* at www.wfme.org/accreditation
- *Directory of Organizations that Recognize/Accredit Medical Schools (DORA)* at www.faimer.org/resources/dora/index.html
- *World Directory of Medical Schools* at www.wdoms.org
- ECFMG Guidance on Medical School Selection at www.ecfmg.org/medschoolselection



Questions & Discussion



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