

FAIMER®

Data Resources

building data resources to understand
medical education • accreditation • licensure
around the world

Data Resources

There are many determinants of the quality of health care, including the scope and breadth of medical education that individual physicians receive. Before we can begin the task of improving medical education, we must first understand the world's medical education systems as they exist today. By collecting accurate data on medical education worldwide, we can begin to appreciate how educational capacity and pedagogical processes impact the health of individuals and societies.

FAIMER strives to be the single best source of information on international medical education and international medical graduates. Much work has been done to create, assemble, and maintain high-quality data repositories on medical education and physicians worldwide. Our goal is to provide both current and historical information to medical educators, researchers, policy makers, and organizations concerned with credentialing and licensure. These data are also intended to be an important resource for health care consumers and prospective medical school students.

Together, these complementary resources provide a comprehensive picture of the world's medical education systems, from undergraduate instruction through specialty training.

International Medical Education Directory (IMED)

The *International Medical Education Directory (IMED)* is a searchable, web-based resource on the world's medical schools that is freely available on the FAIMER website. Each *IMED* listing includes the school's current name and university affiliation, previous names (where applicable), and contact information. *IMED* also offers available information about the duration of the curriculum, the title of the medical degree awarded, the language of instruction, the year instruction began, and the years for which the school has been recognized by the appropriate government agency. The information available in *IMED* is derived from data collected by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG®) throughout its history of evaluating the medical education credentials of international medical graduates. Using these data as a starting point, FAIMER began developing *IMED* in 2001 and made it publicly available in April 2002.

A medical school is added to *IMED* when FAIMER receives official notification of a school's recognition from the ministry of health, ministry of education, or other responsible authority in the country where the school is located. FAIMER updates *IMED* as new information about medical schools is received.

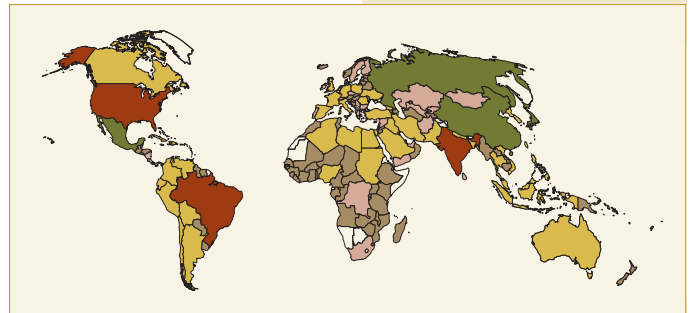
Recognizing that accurate medical school information can be of great value to members of the international medical community, FAIMER offers subscription-based access to *IMED*. For an annual fee, subscribers have access to download all current and historical school records in the *IMED* database.

International Opportunities in Medical Education (IOME)

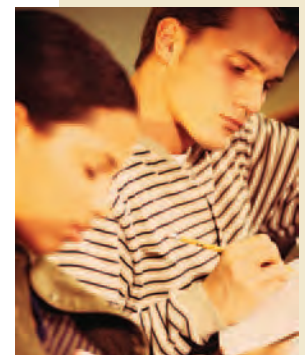
The directory of International Opportunities in Medical Education (IOME) provides information on the extent and nature of international health opportunities available to medical students, residents, and faculty at medical schools around the world. IOME represents the collaborative efforts of FAIMER and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Our objective is to develop a comprehensive resource that details the myriad programs and opportunities available. IOME is available on the FAIMER website.



*promoting
research on the
effectiveness
of medical
education*



*supporting
development of
indicators of
educational
quality*



Before we can improve medical education, we must first understand it. The collection of accurate and up-to-date data on the world's medical education programs is the key.

Directory of Organizations that Recognize/Accredit Medical Schools (DORA)

As part of our goal to build information resources on medical education worldwide, FAIMER has developed a directory of organizations that recognize, authorize, or accredit medical schools and programs. These organizations are often responsible for the establishment of national standards for medical education and the recognition of medical schools in their countries. The *Directory of Organizations that Recognize/Accredit Medical Schools (DORA)* is freely accessible on the FAIMER website.

DORA includes available information regarding an organization's accreditation standards, evaluation processes, and other details. The directory does not encompass all organizations that have responsibilities related to approving medical schools and/or medical education programs. Interested individuals should verify information directly with the appropriate entity or governmental agency. Recognition by an organization listed in *DORA* does not imply that a medical school will be listed in *IMED*. FAIMER is not an accrediting agency and has no relationship with the organizations listed in *DORA*.

Master's Programs in Health Professions Education

As the number of graduate programs in health professions education increases and interest in these programs grows, the need to have program information readily available in a centralized location has become apparent. In conjunction with directors of master's programs in health professions education, FAIMER developed and disseminated a survey instrument to gather information on health professions education programs around the world. FAIMER has published on its website responses to this survey, including descriptive information, a link to each program's website, and contact information for each program. As new and updated details about health professions education master's programs are received, they will be added to the Master's Programs website.

Postgraduate Medical Education (PME) Project

FAIMER's newest data resource, the Postgraduate Medical Education (PME) Project, is a directory, available on the FAIMER website, that describes postgraduate medical education programs worldwide. It provides information, at the country level, on formal medical education and clinical training beyond the basic medical school curriculum, including the duration of studies, trainee selection processes, specialty curricula and licensing authorities, areas of specialization, and regulations regarding specialty education and licensure/certification. The PME Project was developed in partnership with the European Medical Association (EMA). It is intended to be a resource for those who want to learn about postgraduate medical education internationally, and will be especially valuable to those who wish to evaluate, compare, and contrast postgraduate training programs among countries.

Learn More

FAIMER continues to build informational resources on medical education worldwide, and to share them broadly with physicians, patients, students, researchers, medical schools, organizations concerned with credentialing and licensure, and the public. These resources support the development of indicators of educational quality and promote research on the effectiveness of medical education.

For more information on FAIMER's data resources or to search its directories, visit the FAIMER website at www.faimer.org.

Data Resources Staff

Carole Bede
Chief Librarian

John R. Boulet, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for Research and Data Resources

Danette W. McKinley, Ph.D.
Director, Research and Data Resources

Amy Opalek, M.S.
Data Resource Specialist

Marta van Zanten,
Ph.D. (candidate), M.Ed.
Research Associate

Contact FAIMER

FAIMER welcomes your questions and comments on these important resources:

IMED
E-mail: imed@faimer.org
Fax: 215.386.9767

IOME, Master's Programs in Health Professions Education
E-mail: inquiry@faimer.org
Fax: 215.966.3121

DORA, PME Project
E-mail: research@faimer.org
Fax: 215.386.3309

Foundation for Advancement of
International Medical Education and
Research
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685 USA

www.faimer.org