

University of Sfax Medical School – Site Visit

The Sfax Medical School invited the International Association of Medical Colleges for a Site Visit in order to complete the IAOMC's Process of Accreditation. A memorandum of Understanding was agreed in June 2016 and the visit took place between September 25 and 29th 2016.

The IAOMC is committed to peer evaluation of the education provided by individual medical schools anywhere in the world. It is a non-stock, not for profit association. Its goal is to serve society and those with an interest in the evaluation of the quality of undergraduate medical education to enhance medical education/practice. The standards and process are transparent and the evaluation results will be available to the public to inspire confidence in the integrity of the process and the findings.

The Site Visitors were



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Professor Nehad I. El-Sawi,
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Professor James Appleyard
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President International Association of Medical Colleges
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Professor Chadli Dziri,
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Head Department B of General Surgery
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The University of Sfax established an Accreditation Committee involving 54 members of their Faculty to revise and develop their Medical School Programme. They had completed the Accrediting Standards Data Base of the IAOMC and the Self Study Protocol in advance of the visit which will be made available 'on line'

Introductory Words by the President of the IAOMC with the Site Visitors
to the Dean Professor Samy Kammoun, Professor Mohamed Jallouli and the Senior Academic Staff of the Sfax Medical School

" Thank you very much for inviting the International Association of Medical Colleges to send a Site Visiting Team to complete the Accreditation Process of the IAOMC.

We are grateful for your warm welcome and kind hospitality.

The International Association of Medical Colleges is a non-stock, not for organization dedicated to peer review of any Medical School who wished to be assessed by the IAOMC's Composite Standards to further excellence in Medical Education in an open and transparent way

Our site visitors are your peers

Our task as agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding is to

Confirm that the established study protocols have been followed

Verify the applicant's data and documents

Respond to any points raised by the Evaluator

Insure that the quality of education is in compliance with the IAOMC's Global Standards

Members of the Site Visitor Panel, will introduce themselves personally and will make their own independent assessment and then together make a team determination

We are aware that Medical Education is a journey; the undergraduate phase is just the start of a lifetime of learning; there are milestones along the way but the pursuit of excellence continues

Medical education is a complex adaptive system driven by the common aims of medicine – and I would like to draw your attention to our paper on Medical Professionalism – being a Physician which supports our Composite Standards and underpins our drive for continuous quality improvement

Dean Samy Kammoun, under your guidance with the enormous work of Professor Mohamed Jallouli and the Accreditation Committee of Sfax Medical School in completing the Self Study and we commend the enthusiasm shown by your dedicated staff.

We look forward to listening to you all for updates on the progress you have made Sfax Medical School has already met the criteria for Certification.

The Site Visitor Panel's decision to recommend Accreditation' will rest on your demonstration that Sfax Medical School has sufficiently met our Global Composite Standards"

Over 3 days the Site Visitors met the Dean Professor Samy Kannoun and the Chairman Professor Mohamed Jallouli with Members of the University's Accreditation Committee, Members of the Medical Science and Clinical Faculties, their Medical Students in a variety of settings and a Patient group and reviewed in an open, interactive and constructive way the Medical School's progress towards achieving the IAOMC's Global Composite Standards that are required for Full Accreditation.

The four international independent medical education 'experts' were joined by Professor Chadli Dziri from Tunisia on the recommendation of the University of Sfax . Professor Dziri was a full member of the Site Visiting Team, independent of the University of Sfax

Statement by the Chairman of the Site Visitor Panel at the conclusion of the Visit

'The Site Visitor Panel met with the Dean, Professor Ramy Kannoun the Chairman of the Accreditation Committee Professor Mohamed Jallouli and members of the Accreditation Committee at the conclusion of the visit

Professor Appleyard thanked the Dean and all his Staff who had organized the visit to ensure that the Site Visitors had been able to engage the Faculty, the medical students, administrators and a patient group in a comprehensive assessment of the five domains of the IAOMC Global Standards

Details of their assessment and recommendations will be made available in the Report of the Site Visit, which is being prepared from the individual independent reports of the five members of the panel

The Facilities of the School were good and the Standards for the Medical Students in general were good and some of the students we met were outstanding. There were however real difficulties in certain areas including Governance and Administration, which were not within the Medical Schools' delegated responsibility from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research but which frustrate the implementation of certain key standards - for example

That "the Institution through its governing system must provide mechanisms to assure appropriate process and high quality selection, appointment and promotion of faculty and for the selection, promotion and graduation of students"

And

"The administrative structure must ensure that the faculty is appropriately involved in decisions related to admissions, hiring, retention, promotion and disciplining of faculty and the ongoing assessment and review of the curriculum including both basic and clinical sciences"

With regard to the Medical Students the standards state, " The final decision for selecting students to be admitted to the program of medical education must be the responsibility of an appropriate faculty committee"

The Educational Programme was in transition and detailed discussion revealed certain actions that need to be taken to enhance this

Taking everything into consideration, the Panel unanimously agreed to recommend to the Board of the IAOMC through the IAOMC's Evaluator that Sfax Medical School be granted **Provisional Accreditation** pending further work of the areas highlighted details of which will be given in the Final Report of the Panel to be submitted to the Sfax Medical School of University of Sfax and then published on the IAOMC's Website

The Panel recommended that the IAOMC should review progress after 12 months. (This may not necessarily require a further site visit)