



EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES

FAIMER®

Foundation for Advancement of International  
Medical Education and Research

# Medical School Accreditation

AMFEM International Congress of Medical Education  
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Chair, Board of Directors, FAIMER

# Today's Topics

- About ECFMG®
- ECFMG Certification
- About FAIMER®
- Why Accreditation?
- ECFMG's Accreditation 2023 Initiative
- WFME Recognition Programme
- Resources



# Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates



## About ECFMG

- Non-profit
- Private, non-governmental
- Established in 1956
- Founded to evaluate international medical graduates (IMGs) for entry into US graduate medical education (GME)
  - “ECFMG Certification”

*25% of physicians in training and practice in US are IMGs*



# ECFMG Certification

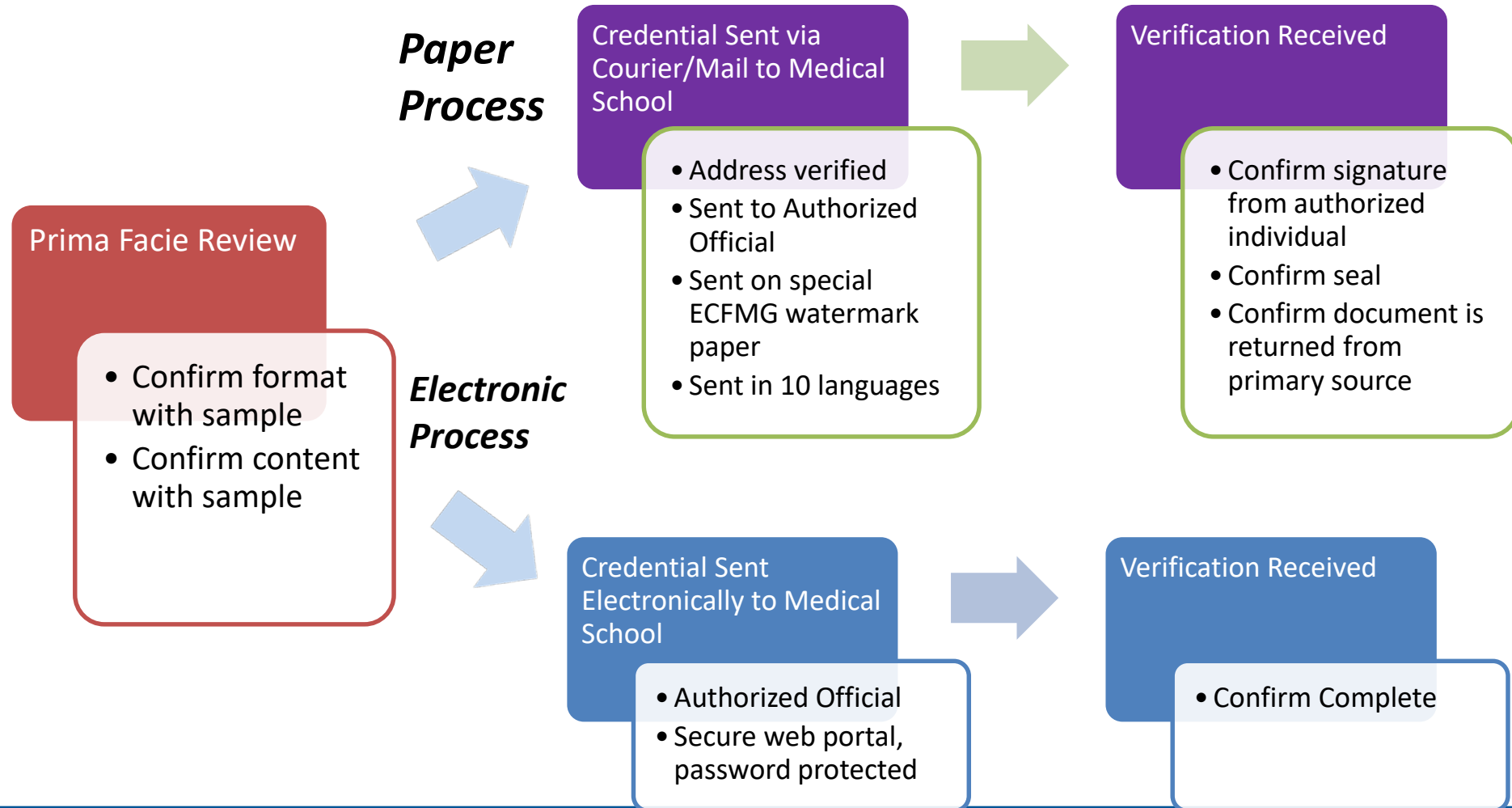
# ECFMG Certification

## 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

## Primary-Source Credential Verification



Foundation for Advancement  
of International Medical Education and Research

FAIMER®



## About FAIMER

- Non-profit foundation of ECFMG
- Established in 2000
- Enhances world health through education
  - Trains health professions educators
  - Conducts research
  - Builds data resources on medical education

FAIMER, with the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME), maintains the ***World Directory of Medical Schools***, a free resource on more than 3,000 medical schools worldwide



# Why 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](http://www.ada.org)

# Why Accreditation?

## Some definitions

*“...a means of **self-regulation and peer review** adopted by the educational community... intended to **strengthen and sustain the quality** and integrity of higher education, making it **worthy of public confidence.**”*

Middle States Commission on Higher Education  
[www.msche.org](http://www.msche.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](http://www.chea.org)

# Why Accreditation?

## Key Themes

Self-assessment

External review

Public accountability

# Improvement

## Why Accreditation?

Variability → Harmonized Standards

- 170+ countries/territories have operating medical schools
- 100+ countries have accreditation systems
  - Some have more than one





# Why Accreditation?

Variability → Harmonized Standards

Global variation in

- Duration and levels
- Standards and availability of standards
- Evaluation process and availability of description of procedures
- Outcomes/consequences
- Governance of accrediting agency



## Why Accreditation?

Variability → Harmonized Standards

Globalization of medicine

- Migration of students for medical education
- Migration of physicians to:
  - Fill demand for health care providers
  - Escape conflict situations
- Medical volunteerism
- Medical tourism



# Why Accreditation?

## Benefits

- Provides an opportunity to improve
- When voluntary, it enhances reputation
  - Increased student applications
  - Better retention of current students
  - Ease of student mobility
- When mandatory
  - Required for
    - Continued funding
    - Graduates to be eligible for practice or further training
  - Consequences
    - Time to improve
    - Closure





# ECFMG Accreditation 2023 Initiative

# ECFMG Accreditation 2023 Initiative

## Goals

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

# ECFMG Accreditation 2023 Initiative

## ECFMG 2010 Board Resolution

*Applicants for ECFMG Certification must graduate from a medical school that has been “appropriately accredited,” and the accrediting agency must be “recognized.”*

Takes effect in 2023

*“Accreditation 2023”*

# ECFMG Accreditation 2023 Initiative

## Milestones

- 2010—ECFMG announces requirement
- 2011—WFME launches pilot recognition process
- 2012—WFME approves *Programme for Recognition of Accreditation Agencies*
- 2012—WFME recognizes first accrediting agency

# ECFMG Accreditation 2023 Initiative

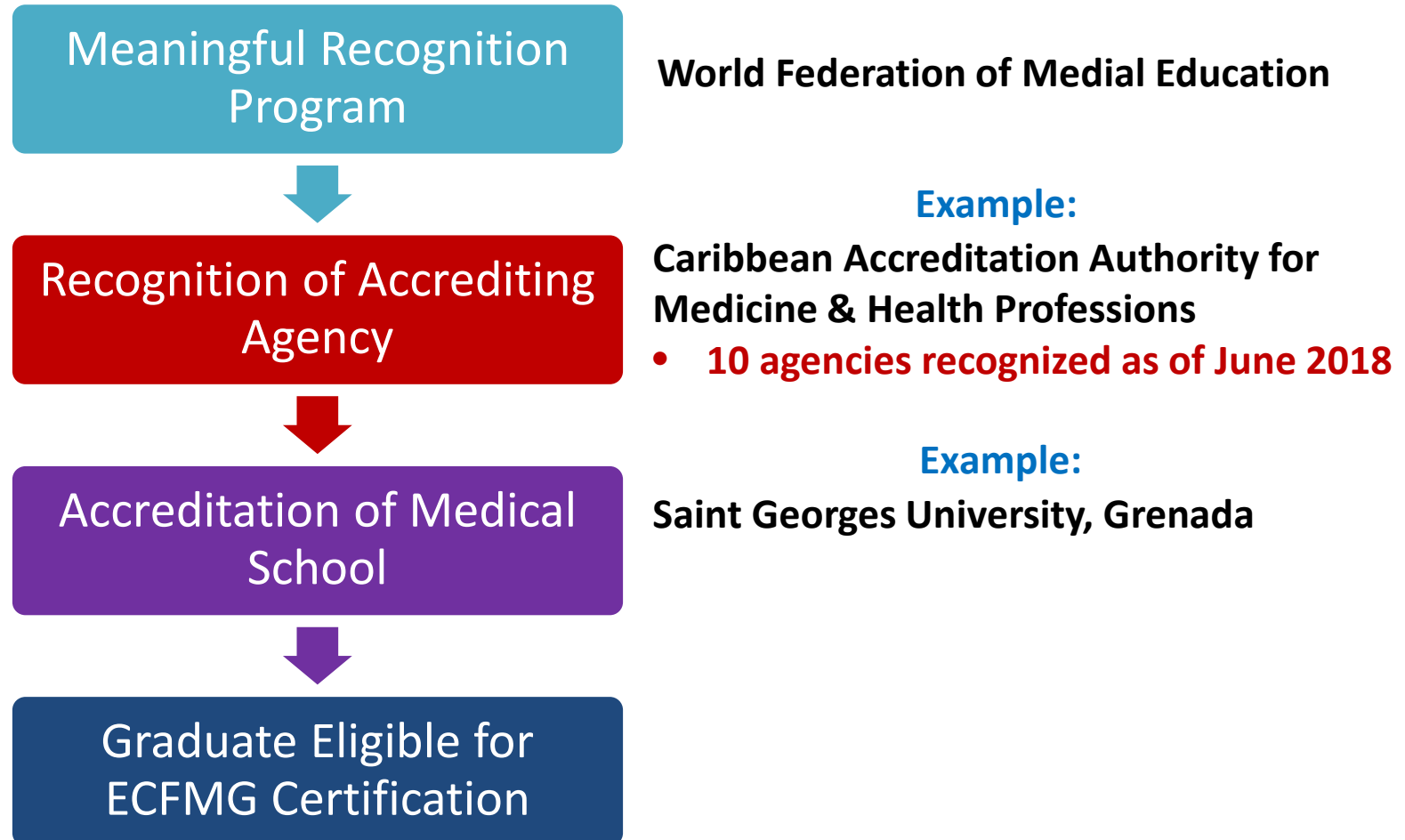
## FAIMER's Role in WFME *Recognition Programme*

- Assisted in developing standards, policies, and procedures and contributes to ongoing refinement
- Supported pilot
- Team secretary on recognition reviews
- Assists in training new WFME team members
- Collaborates to increase program capacity



# ECFMG Accreditation 2023 Initiative

## Process to Satisfy ECFMG Requirement



# ECFMG Accreditation 2023 Initiative

## Phased Implementation



- Link to accrediting agencies recognized by WFME
- Link to NCFMEA listing of schools eligible for US federal loans
- "Tips" on selecting a medical school

- Medical schools that are accredited by an agency recognized by WFME will be annotated in the *World Directory*

- Reports to residency programs, employers, state boards, and MRAs will include a statement on the accreditation status of the medical school. For example:
  - "This medical school was accredited in [year] by an agency recognized by WFME."

- ECFMG will only certify graduates from a medical school accredited by an agency recognized by WFME

ECFMG will provide regular updates to stakeholders.

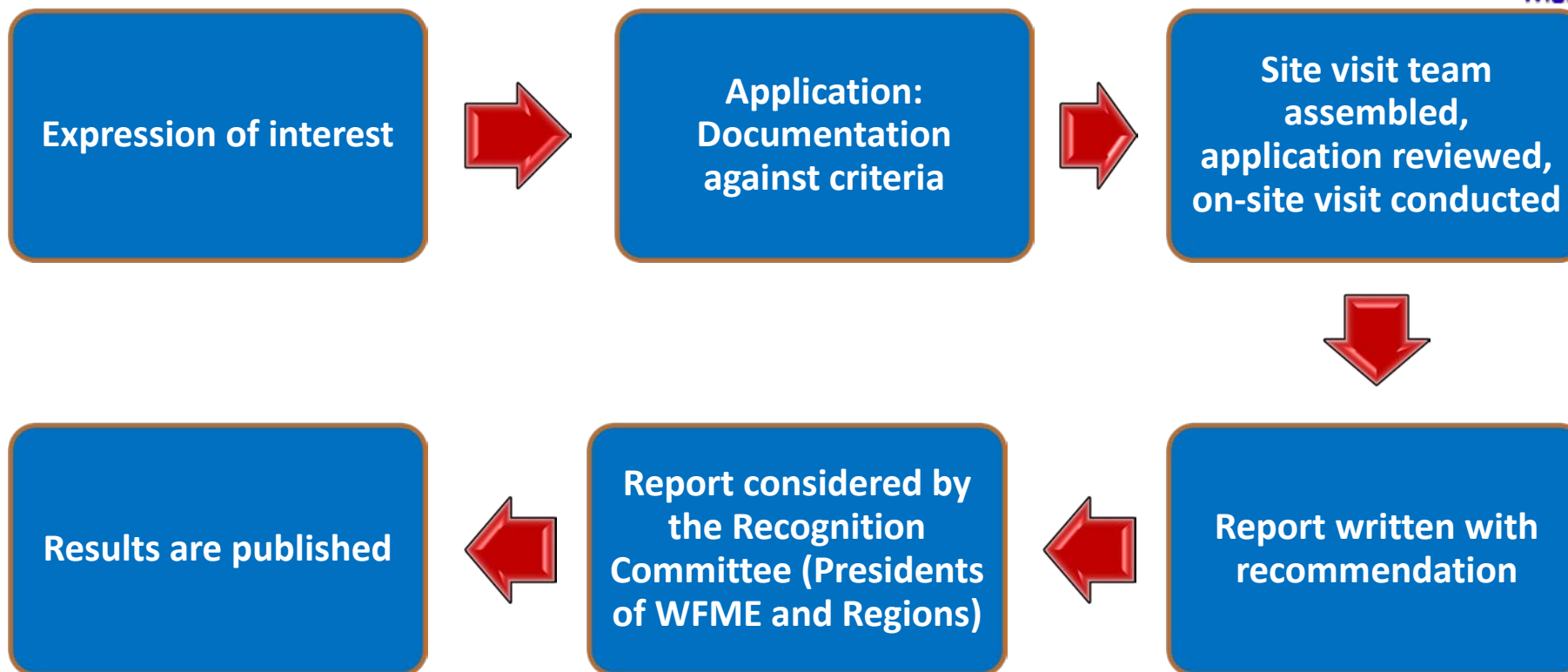


# WFME Recognition Programme

## WFME Recognition Programme

- **ONLY** recognition program accepted by ECFMG to recognize accrediting agencies/meet ECFMG accreditation requirement
- FAIMER integral to developing *Programme*
- High level of confidence in *Programme* to meet goals of ECFMG's requirement

# WFME Recognition Programme Process



# WFME Recognition Programme

## Recognized Accrediting Agencies

- 2012—Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP)
- 2013—Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Medical Education Programs, Turkey
- 2014—Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME, USA) and the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS)

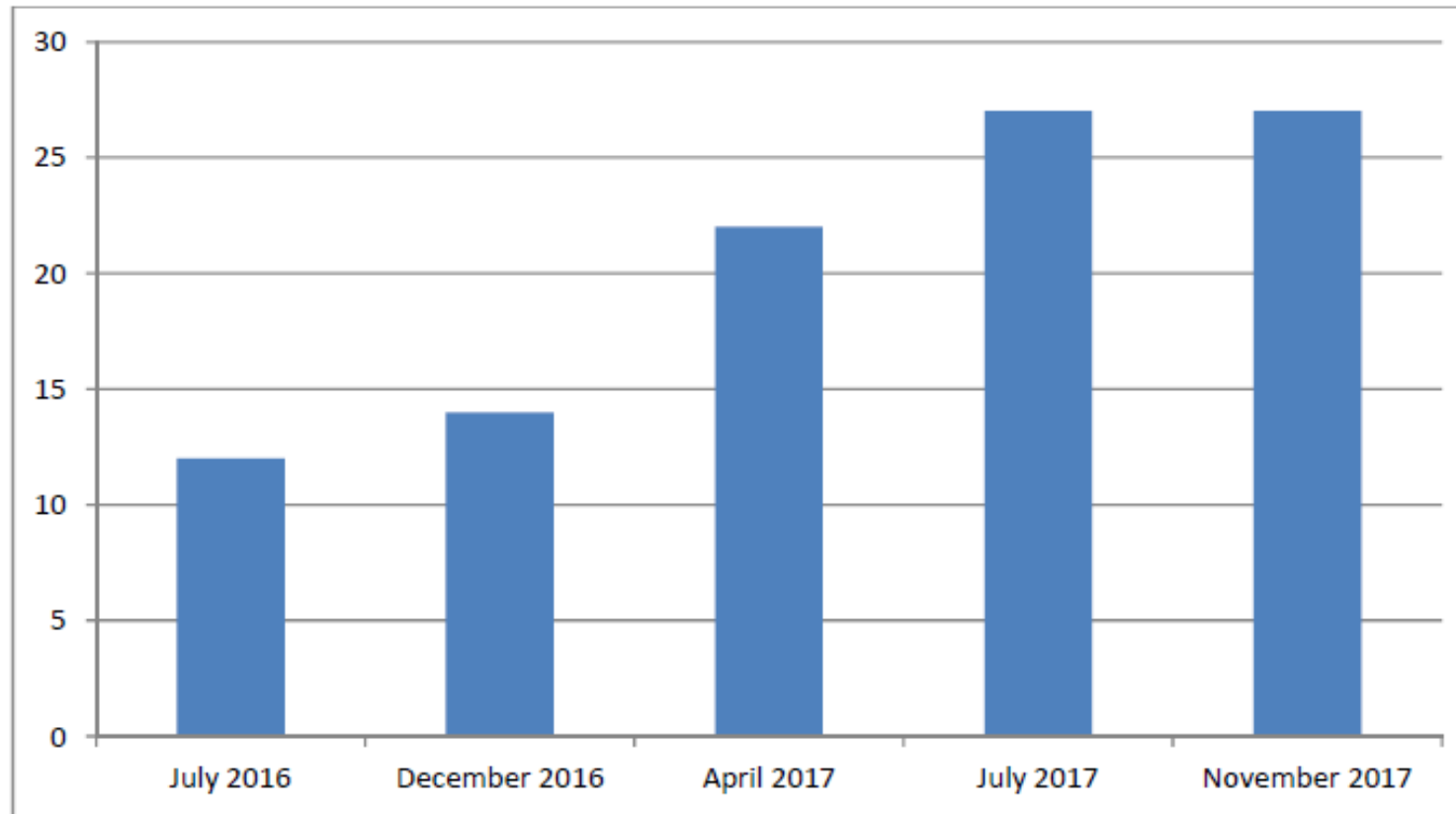
# WFME Recognition Programme

## Recognized Accrediting Agencies

- 2016—Korean Institute of Medical Education and Evaluation (KIMEE)
- 2016—Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine (ACCM)
- 2017—Japan Accreditation Council for Medical Education (JACME)
- 2018 —Australian Medical Council
- 2018 — Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR, Kazakhstan)
- 2018 — Sudan Medical Council

# WFME Recognition Program

Number of agencies in the process of recognition and/or in discussion with WFME, mid-2016–2017







# Resources

## Resources

- Updates from ECFMG:
  - [www.ecfmg.org/accreditation](http://www.ecfmg.org/accreditation)
  - *Focus*—e-mail newsletter for medical schools, subscribe at [www.ecfmg.org/focus/index.html](http://www.ecfmg.org/focus/index.html)
- WFME *Recognition Programme*
  - <http://wfme.org/accreditation>



## Questions & Discussion

Information

[www.ecfm.org](http://www.ecfm.org) |   

Contact

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