

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: July 24, 2009
ATTENTION: Medical Board of California
SUBJECT: Recognition of St. George's University
School of Medicine's UK Campus
STAFF CONTACT: Deborah Pellegrini, Chief

REQUESTED ACTION:

Determine if St. George's University School of Medicine's branch campus in the United Kingdom satisfies the minimum requirements and should be granted recognition.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board grant recognition to St. George's University's branch campus in the United Kingdom, based on the Medical Consultant's positive findings and recommendations.

BACKGROUND:

The Medical Board of California recognizes St. George's University School of Medicine (St. George's) located on the island of Grenada in the West Indies. In January 2007, St. George's opened a branch campus in the United Kingdom, located on the campus of the University of Northumbria in Newcastle Upon Tyne. The Keith B. Taylor Global Scholars Program, as it is known, offers St. George's students the option of completing their first year of basic sciences coursework at the U.K. campus. The students complete the remainder of their basic sciences coursework at the Grenada campus.

Subsection (b)(11) of Section 1314.1 of Title 16, California Code of Regulations, pertains to branch campuses of international medical schools. In accordance with subsection (b)(11), "an institution with more than one campus shall have written policies and procedures governing the division and sharing of administrative and teaching responsibilities between the central administration and faculty, and the administration and faculty at the other locations."

In April 2008, St. George's officials provided the Board with detailed information regarding the educational program and resources available at the new campus in the U.K., as well as their system for governing the educational program provided at the two campuses. James Nuovo, M.D., one of the Board's Medical Consultants, conducted a comprehensive evaluation of St. George's new program. Dr. Nuovo's report dated June 12, 2009 outlining his findings and recommendations is attached for your review. Dr. Nuovo determined that St. George's new U.K. campus meets the requirements of Section 2089 of the B&P Code and Section 1314.1 of the regulations. He recommends that the Board grant recognition to the educational program at St. George's U.K. campus retroactive to its founding in January 2007.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There is no fiscal impact on the Medical Board of California to granting recognition to St. George's new campus in the United Kingdom.

PREVIOUS MBC AND/OR COMMITTEE ACTION:

This is the first request that the Board has received from a Board-recognized medical school for recognition of a branch campus that the medical school has opened in another country. It is conceivable that the Board may receive additional requests of this type in the future from other medical schools.

Attachments

June 12, 2009

To: Pat Park, Licensing Program
Medical Board of California
2005 Evergreen Street
Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95815

From: ~~Jim Nuovo, MD~~
Professor & Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Graduate Medical Education
UC Davis School of Medicine
4860 Y Street; Suite 2300
Sacramento, CA 95817

Re: Evaluation of St. George's University School of Medicine – Global Scholars Program – Request for Recognition for the Keith B. Taylor Global Scholars Program (KBTGSP)

BACKGROUND

The Medical Board of California (Board) requested a review of materials provided by the St. George's University School of Medicine (SGUSOM) – Global Scholars Program, located on the island of Grenada. These were submitted in pursuit of a request for recognition of the School's new branch campus in the United Kingdom at Northumbria University in Newcastle Upon Tyne. The new program, known as the Keith B. Taylor Global Scholars Program (KBTGSP), is optional to St. George's students and offers them the opportunity to complete their first year of basic sciences education in the United Kingdom instead of Grenada. Recognition of this program would allow graduates of the School who complete their first year of education at KBTGSP to be eligible to participate in clinical clerkships, to enter graduate medical education programs in California, and to become eligible for licensure to practice medicine.

This report is based on my review of the documents submitted by SGUSOM. The goal of this review was to determine if the medical education received at KBTGSP meets the requirements of current California statutes and regulations for recognition by the Medical Board of California.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The documents provided indicate that KBTGSP as a branch campus of SGUSOM is in substantial compliance with the requirements of Business and Professions Code Sections 2089 and 2089.5 and California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 13, Section 1314.1, and provides a resident course of professional instruction equivalent to that required by Section 2089.

Based on the School's compliance with these regulations, I recommend that the Board approve SGUSOM's request for recognition of the KBTGSP as a branch campus.

I do not believe a site inspection is necessary. SGUSOM documents provide sufficient details on the KBTGSP to indicate that the facilities are adequate to fulfill the educational mission of the Program.

The extensive documentation provided by SGUSOM as described in this report justifies full retroactivity to coursework completed by all previous SGUSOM/KBTGSP students.

REVIEW

The KBTGSP branch campus began operations in January, 2007. SGUSOM's general description of this program is that "the first year curriculum offered" at KBTGSP "is the same curriculum offered to students entering the program in Grenada pursuant to the same mission and objectives and is managed by SGUSOM using its own administration." More specifically, "the courses and the timing of delivery are the same; to the point that the examinations are given at the same (real) time."

The documents provided in SGUSOM's Self-Assessment Report are well-organized and indicate that this program has an effective mission to educate its students; that the KBTGSP students upon successful completion of their first year are prepared to continue their medical school training at the main campus in Grenada.

The following is a detailed assessment of the KBTGSP based on the aforementioned regulations and on their responses to the Self-Assessment Report and additional concerns posed by this reviewer.

Business and Professions Code Sections 2089

Section 2089 requires the medical curriculum to extend over four years or 32 months of actual instruction; that the curriculum includes all the courses listed in Section 2089 (b); that there are a minimum of 4,000 hours of instruction, and that there is a statutory requirement for 80% attendance. SGUSOM is in compliance with these requirements based on the Board's prior review of the main campus program. Further, given that the curriculum for the KBTGSP is identical to the curriculum at the main campus and the rules that govern the KBTGSP are identical to those of the main campus, the School meets the requirements of Section 2089.

Business and Professions Code Sections 2089.5

The SGUSOM Self-Assessment Report indicates that KBTGSP provides instructing in all of the basic sciences coursework required in Section 2089. As to the specific clinical sciences requirements in Section 2089.5, the documents provided by SGUSOM indicate that the main campus program in the clinical courses meets or exceeds the minimum requirements in Section 2089.5. There is no clinical coursework during the first year at

SGUSOM or KBTGSP; however, both campuses offer training in physical diagnosis and clinical skills. As is the theme for this application, the coursework for physical diagnosis and clinical skills at both campuses is identical.

California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 13, Section 1314.1

The Self-Assessment Report contains an extensive, clearly defined mission statement with educational/research and service objectives.

The report includes the exact language of “broad expectations” and lists specific goals and objectives. The report describes the integral role of research in its mission and includes statements of its importance, nature, objectives, processes, and evaluation or research in the medical education and practice of the School. These objectives include teaching, patient care, and service to the community. There are clearly written institutional objectives that are consistent with the preparation of graduates to provide competent care.

The Institution is operated as a definable academic unit responsible for a resident educational program that leads to an MD degree.

The structure and content of the educational program provides an adequate foundation in the basic and clinical sciences and enables students to learn the fundamental principles of medicine, to acquire critical judgment skills, and to use those principles and skills to provide competent medical care.

As required in Section 1314.1, the administration and governance system allows the institution to accomplish its objectives, i.e., its statements of the items of knowledge, skills, behavior and attitude that students are expected to learn. The Institution’s governance gives faculty a formal role in the Institution’s decision-making process. Students enrolled in the program are not permitted to serve as an instructor, administrator, officer or director of the School.

The description of the KBTGSP indicates that it has an adequate number faculty for the size of the program. There is a sufficient description of the credentials of the faculty to indicate that they are appropriately qualified to teach their specific curricular content.

There is a clear description of the governing body of KBTGSP which includes a University Faculty Senate and a description of the faculty evaluation and development programs.

There is a clear description of the admissions criteria, student selection and promotion. The descriptions of these activities are consistent with the Institution’s mission and objectives.

There is a description of the financial resources of the KBTGSP. This information indicates that the Program has sufficient financial resources to accomplish its mission.

The facilities available to carry out the educational mission, the identical basic sciences program as available in the main campus are described in the report. They are adequate to achieve the stated educational goals for the program.

SUMMARY

In summary, I feel there is sufficient documentation to support the application for recognition of KBTGSP as a branch campus of SGUSOM. Specifically, there is a sufficient description of the written policies and procedures governing the division and sharing of administrative and teaching responsibilities between the central administration and faculty, and the administration and faculty at the campus location. These policies are consistent with the institution's mission and objectives. The SGUSOM is fully responsible for the conduct and quality of the educational program at these sites. The School has structured a SGUSOM/KBTGSP Joint Curriculum Coordination Committee which serves as an advisory committee to the Dean of Basic and Allied Health Sciences at SGUSOM. Any proposed curricular change initiated by SGUSOM that will affect either program is forwarded to the Joint Curriculum Coordination Committee for comments before being addressed at the SGUSOM Basic Sciences Administrative Curriculum Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the materials from the SGUSOM/KBTSGP program/Self-Assessment Report.