

**MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT**

DATE REPORT ISSUED: May 30, 2008  
ATTENTION: Board Members  
DEPARTMENT: Medical Board of California, Licensing Program  
SUBJECT: Recognition of International Medical School  
Program  
Poznan University of Medical Sciences'  
English Program, Poznan, Poland  
STAFF CONTACT: Deborah Pellegrini, Chief, Licensing Program

REQUESTED ACTION:

Determine if Poznan University of Medical Sciences' English-language program satisfies the minimum requirements of statute and should be granted recognition.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board grant recognition to the Poznan University of Medical Sciences English Program, based on the Medical Consultant's positive findings and recommendations. This would be consistent with the Board's prior decisions regarding European programs of this type.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Poznan University of Medical Sciences in Poznan, Poland, founded its Polish-language medical school in 1919. In 1993, the institution began to offer a four-year medical education program for non-citizens using English as the language of instruction. A six-year English-language program was added in 1994 for high school graduates who have not completed the postsecondary pre-medical coursework required to enter medical school.

The Board presently recognizes Poznan University of Medical Sciences' Polish-language medical school whose primary purpose is to educate its own citizens to practice medicine in Poland. In accordance with Title 16, CCR, subsection (c) of section 1314.1, Poznan University of Medical Sciences has requested that its English programs for foreign national students be recognized by the Board. Additionally, subsection (a)(2) of section 1314.1 requires the institution to meet the standards set forth in subsection (b) of section 1314.1. Copies of B&P Code sections 2089 and 2089.5 and Title 16, CCR, section 1314.1 are attached with Agenda Item 7A for your reference.

The institution submitted a Self Assessment Report to the Board on April 3, 2007 and supplemental responses on May 12, 2008. These items were forwarded to our Medical Consultant, James Nuovo, M.D., at the University of California, Davis (UCD) School of Medicine, for review. Dr. Nuovo is an expert medical education consultant. He serves as Associate Dean of Students Affairs and Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education at UCD School of Medicine. Dr. Nuovo completed a comprehensive evaluation of the institution's Self Assessment Report and supporting data. Dr. Nuovo's report dated May 30, 2008 outlining his findings and recommendations is attached for your review. Institution officials addressed all questions and requests for additional information satisfactorily. Dr. Nuovo recommends that the Board grant recognition to Poznan University of Medical Sciences' English Program with full retroactivity to prior students and graduates.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There is no fiscal impact on the Medical Board of California to granting recognition to Poznan University's of Medical Sciences' English Program. If the Board grants recognition to the school's English program, graduates of the program will apply for licensure in California. The application processing fees that they remit will defray the costs of reviewing their applications.

PREVIOUS MBC AND/OR COMMITTEE ACTION:

Over the past six years, the Board's Division of Licensing has granted the same recognition to six English-language programs offered by existing native-language programs in Europe, including all four Hungarian medical schools, Charles University First Faculty of Medicine in the Czech Republic, and Jagiellonian University in Poland.

May 30, 2008

To: Patricia Park, Licensing Program  
Medical Board of California  
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From: Jim Nuovo, MD  
Professor & Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Graduate Medical Education  
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Re: Evaluation of Poznan University of Medical Sciences-English Language  
Program/Self-Assessment Report; Application for Recognition in California

## **BACKGROUND**

The Medical Board of California (Board) requested a review of materials provided by the Poznan University of Medical Sciences' English Language Program (PUMS-ELP), located in Poznan, Poland. These were submitted in pursuit of a request for recognition of PUMS-ELP by the Board to enable their students and graduates 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 provided to the Medical Board.

I have had the opportunity to review the documents submitted by PUMS-ELP. The goal of this review was to determine if the medical education received at PUMS-ELP meets the requirements of current California statutes and regulations for recognition by the Medical Board of California.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The documents provided indicate that PUMS-ELP 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 PUMS-ELP's request for recognition.

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Note: The English-language division of Poznan University of Medical Sciences was known as Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Sciences until July 2005.

I do not believe a site inspection is necessary. PUMS-ELP documents provide sufficient detail to indicate that the facilities are adequate to fulfill the educational mission of the Program.

The extensive documentation provided by PUMS-ELP as described in this report justifies full retroactivity to coursework completed by all previous PUMS-ELP students.

## **REVIEW**

Poznan University has been in existence for approximately 80 years. Since 1950 it has graduated 13,283 physicians from its program. It has over 1200 teaching and research faculty. Poznan University added the English Language Division to the existing medical program in 1993 as a four-year program. In 1994, a six-year program was added for students who had not completed premedical education. The documents provided in PUMS-ELP's Self-Assessment Report are well-organized and indicate that this program has an effective mission to educate physicians who are competent and capable of entering the next level of training; specifically, training in a residency program.

The following is a detailed assessment of the School 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. The PUMS ELP offers a 4-year and a 6-year medical education program. The total number of hours of courses, 4,477 hours, complies with the 4,000 hour minimum requirement in Section 2089. PUMS requires 90% attendance of its students. This exceeds the statutory requirement for 80% attendance. The School's curriculum includes all of the courses listed in Section 2089 (b).

The school acknowledged that it accepts transfer students from other medical schools. The School provided the following details on the policies and procedures of transfer students such as how students are accepted for transfer, how the School determines the amount of credit for previous training, whether there is a limit on the number of transfer students that can be accepted, and whether the last academic year is at the institution.

“Students applying to transfer to our University are required to provide certified transcripts showing courses completed with grades attained. If considered eligible the applicant is offered one of the three options:

- 1) Direct transfer to the year following that completed elsewhere;
- 2) As in 1) but required to attend courses in missing subjects and pass the examinations;
- 3) Entry to the same year as that attended at previous University.

Finishing the second year and passing USMLE step I is required before transfer to the 4-year M.D. Program.”

### **Business and Professions Code Sections 2089.5**

PUMS documented that the English program provides instruction in all of the basic sciences and clinical sciences coursework required in Section 2089. As to the specific clinical sciences requirements in Section 2089.5, PUMS documented that instruction in the clinical courses meets or exceeds the minimum requirements in Section 2089.5. For example, Section 2089.5 requires a minimum of 72 weeks of clinical coursework. PUMS’ curriculum provides 78 weeks of clinical coursework.

Students complete the core clinical rotations required in Section 2089.5 in local hospitals affiliated with the medical school. “Rotations in surgery, medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, family medicine and psychiatry are carried out in the six hospitals sponsored by the School and in four hospitals, where some affiliated to the University departments are localized (e.g. infectious diseases or diabetology).”

PUMS is a state university that is part of the national system of education, sciences and healthcare. “The clinical resources of the university include six clinical hospitals, toward which the school acts in the capacity of the founder by virtue of applicable laws.” The clinical hospitals “operate as separate entities.”

There is a full-time director of medical education and a head of the department for each clinical course. The instructors have full-time faculty appointments and appropriate credentials. There is a Faculty Board that functions as the “supreme legislative body” and includes a Dean, Vice-Deans, Chairpersons, Faculty, Academic Staff, and Student Representatives. There is a detailed description of the means by which the school engages in an ongoing review of the program including documentation of the level and extent of its supervision. There is a detailed description of the evaluation process of each student including sample evaluation forms. Further, the evaluations are done on a regular basis and document the completion of all components of the curriculum.

With respect to the clinical resources required in Section 2089.5 to support students’ clinical training, PUMS documented that its five teaching hospitals have 2,216 total beds. “The teaching hospitals are very large medical centers and meet the requirements of having an adequate number of patients for students’ exposure and experience.”

The School provided additional information on the minimum number of patients seen by each student on a specific clinical rotation. The numbers provided are all adequate to meet the educational mission of the Program.

<b>Clerkship</b>	<b>Minimum number of patients seen by each student on a specific clinical rotation*</b>
<b>Obstetrics/Gynecology</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Pediatrics</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Surgery</b>	<b>155</b>
Vascular Surgery	35
General Surgery	45
Gastrosurgery	35
Traumatic Surgery	20
Urology	20
<b>Internal Medicine II</b>	<b>185</b>
Endocrinology	30
Gastroenterology	25
Pulmonology	25
Nephrology	15
Rheumatology	15
Cardiology	35
Hematology	25
Diabetology	15
<b>Geriatrics</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Psychiatry</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Family Medicine</b>	<b>80</b>

\* - this number including patients seen by student in the Clinical Wards and in the Outpatient's Departments.

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

The medical school is owned and operated by the government of the country where it is located, Poland. Poland has been a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development since 1996. The medical school's purpose is educating its own citizens to practice medicine in Poland.

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

The report includes the exact language of “broad expectations and clearly lists goals and objectives. The report clearly lists 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.

PUMS is described as having 1200 faculty; an adequate number for the size of the school. 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 PUMS 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.

The University receives financial resources from the government of Poland and the University’s capital fund to accomplish its objectives. The available funds are documented in the application and appear sufficient. The institution’s consolidated audit report was included as an attachment.

The facilities available to carry out the educational mission, both basic sciences and clinical rotations, are described in the report. They are extensive and adequate to achieve the stated educational goals of the program. As noted, the school uses 6 hospitals for the clinical rotations. There is documentation that the school is fully responsible for the conduct and quality of the educational program at all 6 sites.

The university does not provide patient care directly but through the 6 affiliated hospitals. There is an extensive affiliation agreement included in this packet. The affiliated clinical hospitals sign contracts with the National Health Fund for providing patient care. The Minister of Health along with the National Health Fund is responsible for the system of quality assurance for patient care in these settings.

The school indicates that it is compliant with the requirement to retain student transcripts. Student records are kept for "50 years."

The following table is a description of student status. The table for the 4-year program lists the number of students admitted, dropped out, dismissed, on leave of absence, and graduated. There appears to be a discrepancy between the number admitted and graduated. However, the table requests only the last five years of data. The ELD commenced instruction in 1993.

#### 4-YEAR MD PROGRAM

Academic Year	# of Students Admitted *	# of Students Dropped Out	# of Students Dismissed	# of students on leave of absence	# of students graduated	# of students in U.S. post-graduate training*	# of students in non U.S. post-graduate training
2005/2006	68	5	1	5	-	-	-
2004/2005	55	4	2	6	52 expected	-	-
2003/2004	48	5	3	3	37	-	-
2002/2003	28	2	1	0	25	7	-
2001/2002	43	4	5	6	28	8	1

\* Numbers reflect some students who transferred from 6 year program.

#### 6-YEAR MD PROGRAM

Academic Year	# of Students Admitted	# of Students Dropped Out	# of Students Dismissed	# of students on leave of absence	# of students graduated	# of students in U.S. post-graduate training*	# of students in non U.S. post-graduate training
2005/2006	72	11	4	3	-	-	-
2004/2005	69	13	5	5	-	-	-
2003/2004	43	3	4	2	-	-	-
2002/2003	36	6	3	3	24 expect.	-	-
2001/2002	30	3	2	2	23	-	-



**\* These data are incomplete as the University is continuing to acquire this information.**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the materials from the Poznan University of Medical Sciences-English Language Program/Self-Assessment Report.