



International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities

NEWS UPDATE MARCH 2006

This communication is provided in a continued effort to present IAMRA members and other international colleagues with up-to-date information about IAMRA initiatives and meetings attended by members of the Management Committee on behalf of the Association. If you have any questions or would like additional information on any of the items discussed below, please feel free to contact the IAMRA Secretariat.

2006 International Conference

Preparations continue for IAMRA's 7th International Conference on Medical Regulation, *Medical Regulation: Global Issues – Shared Solutions*, scheduled for November 11-14, 2006 in Wellington, New Zealand. The deadline for standard registration is **September 15, 2006**. You may register online at www.IAMRA2006.co.nz or by completing the registration form included with this Update and returning it to the Conference Managers as indicated. In addition to the Pre- and Post-Conference Meetings listed on the form, a forum for individuals interested in legal matters pertaining to medical regulation is also being organized to take place on the morning of November 11 prior to the opening of the conference. If you are interested in attending this forum, please contact the IAMRA Secretariat at the mailing address, phone/fax numbers or email on page 4.

Abstracts for IAMRA's 2006 Conference need to be submitted by **April 1, 2006**. Abstracts are to be submitted on the conference website above and can be designed for workshops, interactive Personally Arranged Learning Sessions (PeARLS), free-standing papers and posters. All ideas and topics are welcome so that a diversified and informative program can be developed that will be beneficial for everyone. For those of you without Internet access, guidelines for submitting abstracts are included with this Update. Please send your abstract to the IAMRA Secretariat for entry online. Also included with this Update is a copy of the conference's Provisional Programme.

Letters of invitation can be obtained from the IAMRA Secretariat and the Medical Council of New Zealand as part of the necessary documentation some of you will need to facilitate preparations for your participation at the conference. The Council can be contacted at:

Medical Council of New Zealand
IAMRA Conference
Level 13, Mid City Tower
139 – 143 Willis Street
PO Box 11 649
Wellington
Tel: 64-4-381-6777/Fax: 64-4-385-8902
Email: sue.ineson@karoconsulting.co.nz

This is going to be an exciting event and one that all participants can be proud of. We hope as many of you as possible can attend.

Financial Assistance for Lower Income Countries

IAMRA is prepared to offer limited financial assistance to help some medical regulatory authorities send **one representative** to the conference. **The amount of financial assistance will be**

determined by the number of qualified applicants and will not exceed the cost of the standard conference registration fee and four nights at a conference hotel (single standard room) of IAMRA's choosing. To be eligible for this support an organization must be:

- a medical regulatory authority recognized by the government of a specific country or jurisdiction as being responsible for the registration/licensing of physicians whereby such persons are entitled to practice the profession and/or the regulation and discipline of such physicians;
- located in a low or lower-middle income country as listed in Categories 1 and 2 of the World Bank's Analytical Classification by Income (see page 5); and,
- must not have received financial support from IAMRA to attend the 2004 conference in Ireland.

To apply, please send a letter or email requesting assistance to the IAMRA Secretariat postmarked no later than **May 15, 2006**. Your letter must include:

- the full name and professional title of the person who will be attending the conference;
- how that person or the organization as a whole will contribute to the conference, e.g., by submitting an abstract;
- what that person expects to gain/learn by attending the conference and how he/she might be able to use this to benefit the organization he/she is representing.

Working Relations with the World Health Organization (WHO)

IAMRA and WHO successfully collaborated on a survey to assess how the health care service capacity in countries around the world is related to their medical regulatory practices. An analysis report will be referenced in a chapter of the 2006 World Health Report, *Formulating National Health Workforce Strategies*, which is due to be published on April 7. The publication of this year's World Health Report will open World Health Day 2006, celebrating the dignity, service, and dedication of health workers around the world and launching a decade of initiatives designed to improve the health systems of many countries, particularly of developing nations, which are being negatively impacted by the lack of health care workers.

Documentation of the WHO-IAMRA project and other official papers regarding IAMRA have been submitted to WHO so that IAMRA might obtain an official relationship with WHO as a non-governmental organization (NGO).

A workplan is being developed for further collaboration between IAMRA and WHO during the period 2006-2008. The workplan will identify steps IAMRA can take to assist WHO in:

- promoting Human Resources for Health (HRH) as a crucial element for improving national health systems and services around the world, especially in developing countries; and in
- strengthening the production, management and improvement of the health workforce by creating guidelines, tools and/or frameworks for agencies/organizations that regulate physicians, especially in developing countries, to increase their regulatory capacity.

Fast Track Credentials System

Exchange of Disciplinary Information

A letter from Prof. Thanyani Mariba, IAMRA Chair, accompanied by a questionnaire, were recently forwarded to medical regulators via email addressing the establishment of a successful model for the exchange of important physician information. Both documents have been included with this Update for those of you without email capability. Your responses will be greatly appreciated and will

ultimately help to establish a network of regulators willing to exchange information, identify effective practice in information sharing, and publish a best practice guide.

Exam Review Working Group

IAMRA's Exam Review Working Group has completed its review of the standards of differing registering/licensing exams used by six jurisdictions including Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the U.S. (USMLE and COMLEX). The group is now developing a matrix and detailed summary of how the exams work, with particular attention given to requirements international medical graduates (IMGs) must meet to sit for the exams, and their pass rates. The group is preparing to document the information in an international journal focusing on best practices. The information will ultimately be sent to the participating jurisdictions for their use in determining if bi-lateral or multi-lateral agreements to accept each other's exams are possible.

Medical Regulation Thesaurus

A thesaurus of medical regulatory terms has been drafted. The purpose of the thesaurus is to enhance communication between regulators so that varied usage of terms is understood across jurisdictions. The Exam Review Working Group is in the process of adding additional terms/definitions relating to licensing examinations. Upon completion, the thesaurus will be forwarded to IAMRA membership for their use and posted on IAMRA's website.

Management Committee Member

Management Committee Member-at-Large, Dr. Sunil Khattri, has resigned from his position as registrar of the Delhi Medical Council to advance his professional career and, accordingly, has resigned from the Committee. His position will be filled by election at the Members General Assembly in November.

Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee has been established to solicit recommendations of individuals to be considered for nomination as candidates for elected offices, and to submit a slate of one or more nominees for each of the offices and positions to be filled by election at the meeting of the Members General Assembly in November.

Individuals appointed to the Nominating Committee include:

Finlay Scott, Chair
Member-at-Large, IAMRA Management Committee
Chief Executive and Registrar, General Medical Council

Sue Ineson
Member-at-Large, IAMRA Management Committee
Independent Consultant and former Chief Executive, Medical Council of New Zealand

André Jacques, MD
Director, Practice Enhancement Division, Collège des Médecins du Québec

Dinesh Patel, MD
Chair, Dubai Healthcare City Licensure Board

Ossama Rasslan, MD
Member-at-Large, IAMRA Management Committee
Secretary General, Egyptian Medical Syndicate

Business Plan

The Management Committee is in the process of drafting a business plan for IAMRA to include goals for the next two to three years. The Committee will consider the responses received from IAMRA members to a questionnaire that was circulated a few months ago regarding which IAMRA benefits are most important to their organizations and other benefits they would like to receive as an IAMRA member.

Functions of India Regulators

A document comparing the functions of India's State Medical Councils and the Medical Council of India has been included with this update for use by medical regulators when considering applications for licensure by Indian graduates. Representatives of the Delhi Medical Council and the Medical Council of India approved the circulation of this document.

New Member Organizations

Since the publication of the November 2005 News Update, IAMRA has accepted three new members:

- Center for Healthcare Planning and Quality, Dubai Healthcare City Licensure Board – United Arab Emirates
- Office of Health Authorisation and Administrative Procedures – Hungary
- Shifa College of Medicine – Pakistan

You may forward any comments or questions relating to this newsletter or matters about IAMRA to:

IAMRA Secretariat
P.O. Box 619850
Dallas, Texas 75261-9850
USA
Tel: (817) 868-4067
Fax: (817) 868-4167
Email: Secretariat@IAMRA.com

WORLD BANK ANALYTICAL CLASSIFICATIONS BY INCOME:

Note: These classifications are in effect until July 1, 2006.

(See *Financial Assistance for Lower Income Countries* on page 2.)

Category 1

Afghanistan	Haiti	Pakistan
Bangladesh	India	Papua New Guinea
Benin	Kenya	Rwanda
Bhutan	Korea, Dem. Rep.	Sao Tome and Principe
Burkina Faso	Kyrgyz Republic	Senegal
Burundi	Lao PDR	Sierra Leone
Cambodia	Lesotho	Solomon Islands
Cameroon	Liberia	Somalia
Central African Republic	Madagascar	Sudan
Chad	Malawi	Tajikistan
Comoros	Mali	Tanzania
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Mauritania	Timor-Leste
Congo, Rep.	Moldova	Togo
Cote d'Ivoire	Mongolia	Uganda
Eritrea	Mozambique	Uzbekistan
Ethiopia	Myanmar	Vietnam
Gambia, The	Nepal	Yemen, Rep.
Ghana	Nicaragua	Zambia
Guinea	Niger	Zimbabwe
Guinea-Bissau	Nigeria	

Category 2

Albania	El Salvador	Namibia
Algeria	Fiji	Paraguay
Angola	Georgia	Peru
Armenia	Guatemala	Philippines
Azerbaijan	Guyana	Romania
Belarus	Honduras	Samoa
Bolivia	Indonesia	Serbia and Montenegro
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Iran, Islamic Rep.	Sri Lanka
Brazil	Iraq	Suriname
Bulgaria	Jamaica	Swaziland
Cape Verde	Jordan	Syrian Arab Republic
China	Kazakhstan	Thailand
Colombia	Kiribati	Tonga
Cuba	Macedonia, FYR	Tunisia
Djibouti	Maldives	Turkmenistan
Dominican Republic	Marshall Islands	Ukraine
Ecuador	Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	Vanuatu
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Morocco	West Bank and Gaza