Background and Introduction to the International Association of Medical Licensing Authorities (IAMLA)

In September 2000, meetings were held by a Steering Committee prior to and in conjunction with the 4th International Conference on Medical Regulation held in Oxford, England. This Steering Committee, composed of representatives from eight countries, had been working to establish an international organization of medical licensing and regulatory organizations as a further development arising from previous successive international conferences held in the United States, Australia and South Africa.

Agreement was reached to establish an International Association of Medical Licensing Authorities (IAMLA) and an Interim Governing Committee (IGC) was formed, composed of membership from the eight original cooperating countries.

Co-Chairs were appointed: Dr. James Winn (USA) and Dr. Gary Johnson (Canada). With the departure of Dr. Winn from his position as Chief Executive Officer of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States (FSMB), Dr. Johnson became the Chair for IAMLA.

Consistent with IAMLA’s governance structure, the following individuals have been confirmed as the Interim Governing Committee.

**Canada:**
Dr. Gary Johnson, Executive Director, Federation of Medical Licensing Authorities of Canada (FMLAC) – Chair
Dr. André Jacques, President, FMLAC (alternate)

**Australia:**
Dr. Lloyd Toft, President, Australian Medical Council
Mr. Ian Frank, Executive Officer, Australian Medical Council (alternate)

**Ireland:**
Professor Gerard Bury, President, Irish Medical Council
Dr. J. Brendan Healy, Member, Irish Medical Council (alternate)
New Zealand:
Dr. Tony Baird, President, Medical Council of New Zealand
Ms. Sue Ineson, Registrar, Medical Council of New Zealand (alternate)

South Africa:
Professor Len Becker, Chairperson, Medical and Dental Professions Board
(Alternate to be determined)

Sweden:
Ms. Gunilla Hulth-Backlund, Director, Division for Qualifications and Training,
National Board of Health and Welfare
Ms. Soffia Grimsdottir, Senior Administrative Officer, Division for Qualifications
and Training, National Board of Health and Welfare (alternate)

United Kingdom:
Mr. Finlay Scott, Chief Executive and Registrar, General Medical Council
(Alternate to be determined)

United States:
Mr. Dale Austin, Interim Chief Executive Officer, FSMB
Dr. George Van Komen, President, FSMB (alternate)

The IGC will meet via teleconference on Monday, October 15, 2001.

Two Working Groups Established

The IGC has resolved that two matters be dealt with as priorities, namely, the
development of the Bylaws of the IAMLMA and the formulation of mechanisms by which
information can be exchanged between the participating regulatory authorities. Working
groups have been created to formulate proposals on each of these issues.

1. Bylaws Working Group

The Bylaws Working Group has been established to develop Bylaws for approval by the
IGC at the 5th International Conference on Medical Regulation in Toronto, Canada in
June 2002. The Bylaws will include a proposal for membership criteria and dues
structure. The Bylaws Working Group is chaired jointly by IGC member Professor Len
Becker and Dr. Larry Ohlhauser, Registrar for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of
Alberta in Canada. Other members include:

- Dr. George Barrett – Immediate Past President, FSMB
- Dr. Charles Boelen – Coordinator, Human Resources for Health, Department of
  Organization of Health Services Delivery, World Health Organization (WHO)
- Dr. Lourens Kooij – General Secretary, Royal Dutch Medical Association
  (KNMG) and HVRC Registration Committee
- Mr. Finlay Scott – IGC member – Chief Executive and Registrar, General Medical
  Council
Professor Becker and Dr. Ohlhauser have been working together to formulate an initial draft for the full Working Group to review.

2. Working Group on International Exchange of Information on Physicians (IEIP)

A Working Group on International Exchange of Information on Physicians (IEIP) has been established and Dr. Gary Johnson is the Chair. Individuals appointed as members of the Working Group include:

- Dr. Ossama Rasslan – Secretary General, Egyptian Medical Syndicate
- Professor Ranjit Roy Chaudhury – President, Delhi Medical Council
- Mr. Finlay Scott – IGC member – Chief Executive and Registrar, General Medical Council
- Dr. Lloyd Toft – IGC member – President, Australian Medical Council
- Dr. George Van Komen – IGC member – President, FSMB

The mandate of the Working Group includes three Terms of Reference:

1. To review and summarize current practices on IEIP
2. To identify deficiencies, obstacles and problems on IEIP
3. To submit recommendations for a coordinated system on IEIP by June 2002.

The Working Group on IEIP will hold its first meeting via teleconference on Friday, October 5 to consider a binder of background reference material, and to discuss the development of a suitable questionnaire that can be sent to all medical licensing and regulatory authorities regarding their technical and legal ability, and willingness, to share registration and disciplinary data on individual licensees. The information collected as a result of the questionnaire will lead to the development of recommendations for presentation to the IGC at the plenary meeting of the IAMLA during the June 2002 International Conference, including recommendations regarding the establishment of a permanent electronic data-sharing process.

International Directory of Medical Licensing and Regulatory Authorities

To assist IAMLA membership with the exchange of information, an international directory of all known medical licensing and regulatory authorities in the world is being formulated. This directory will include the usual core information relating to address and communication sites/portals, as well as information on the statute or legal authority providing the organization with its regulatory powers, the person/department to whom information on disciplinary actions should be sent, and a description of the corporation’s organizational structure. A website containing this information with links to each organization’s web page is being proposed for easy access by IAMLA membership.

5th International Conference on Medical Regulation

The 5th International Conference on Medical Regulation will be a joint meeting of the IAMLA and the Federation of Medical Licensing Authorities of Canada. It will be held in Toronto, Canada on June 15-19, 2002. This meeting is open to physicians as well as
non-physicians who work in the field of medical regulation or have a particular interest in this area. Program highlights include an international licensing authority “roundabout” session on current issues; an educational forum focusing on public access to physician information and the exchange of appropriate information between medical licensing and regulatory authorities; a poster exhibit and demonstration; and satellite visits to Canadian licensing authorities. For further information contact:

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IAMLA Interim Secretariat

As specified in IAMLA’s planning document, the daily operations of the IAMLA are being managed by an Interim Secretariat staffed at the Federation of State Medical Boards. The management of IAMLA operations will continue in this manner for an initial period of two years. Ms. Pat McCarty, Administrative Associate of Leadership Support Services at the Federation, has assumed the duties of Interim Secretariat and is providing complete administrative support for the organization. Ms. McCarty can be contacted at:

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Email: IAMLA@fsmb.org

Future News Updates

Following the meetings of the IGC and two Working Groups, progress reports will be sent to you to keep you abreast of all activities.

PLEASE COPY AND SHARE THIS AND FUTURE IAMLA NEWS UPDATES WITH OTHERS.