

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMC and ECFMG Partner to Enhance the Process for Evaluating the Medical Credentials of Australia's International Medical Graduates

CANBERRA, ACT, AUSTRALIA and PHILADELPHIA, UNITED STATES—October 15, 2015. The Australian Medical Council (AMC) and the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG®) are pleased to announce their collaboration to incorporate ECFMG's Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials (EPICSM) into the process for evaluating the medical credentials of Australia's international medical graduates (IMGs). AMC provides a centralized service for Australian specialist medical colleges and other organizations by obtaining primary-source verification of physicians' core medical credentials on behalf of these organizations. On October 1, 2015, AMC began to require IMGs applying for registration with the Medical Board of Australia or for assessment by an Australian specialist medical college to have their medical credentials primary-source verified through EPIC.

Before October 1, AMC obtained primary-source verification of IMG credentials through ECFMG's International Credentials Services (EICS). EPIC provides AMC with the same rigorous primary-source verification that ECFMG delivers through EICS while offering additional benefits not available through EICS. EPIC provides AMC with a secure, web-based platform for authenticating the credentials of their applicants, along with paperless processing and recordkeeping. For IMGs, EPIC offers a service that they can use throughout their careers to build a digital portfolio of verified credentials related to their medical education, training, and registration/licensure. Using EPIC, IMGs can request reports demonstrating the authenticity of their credentials for organizations worldwide, including regulatory authorities and potential employers, such as hospitals and academic institutions. EPIC also enables IMGs to submit their credentials for verification electronically, eliminating postal costs and potential transit delays, as well as reducing processing times. For more information on EPIC, visit www.ecfmgepic.org.



From left: Ian Frank, A.M., CEO, Australian Medical Council, and Emmanuel G. Cassimatis, M.D., President and CEO, Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, led a session on July 7 in Philadelphia to plan for AMC's transition to EPIC.

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Access to high-quality and efficient primary-source verification services is essential to the work of today's medical regulatory authorities. Mr. Frank, AMC's CEO, pointed out that, "The increasing mobility of the international medical workforce has resulted in an increased scrutiny of individual medical qualifications by regulatory authorities." Dr. Cassimatis, ECFMG's President and CEO, added that, "ECFMG is pleased to be able to offer the world's medical regulatory authorities enhanced support through EPIC, as these authorities evaluate physician credentials to protect the public."

About AMC

The AMC's purpose is to ensure that standards of education, training, and assessment of the medical profession promote and protect the health of the Australian community.

The AMC was founded in 1985 to advise and make recommendations to the Australian medical boards on accreditation of medical schools and of courses leading to basic medical qualifications; assessment of suitability for practice in Australia of IMGs; and uniform approaches to registration.

The scope of the AMC's assessment has increased since 1985 with a sophisticated approach to assessing IMGs, including the verification of medical credentials. The verification of medical credentials is mandated under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 (National Law) for all IMGs seeking registration in any category in Australia.

Through its work, the AMC has improved the standard of medical training and practice in Australia, and has grown to become an organization that is held in high esteem nationally and internationally.

For more information, visit the AMC website at www.amc.org.au.

About ECFMG

Established in 1956, ECFMG is a private, nonprofit organization based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with more than 800 full- and part-time employees.

ECFMG is a world leader in promoting quality health care—serving physicians, members of the medical education and regulatory communities, health care consumers, and those researching issues in medical education and health workforce planning. ECFMG's program of certification evaluates whether IMGs are ready to enter U.S. programs of graduate medical education, where they provide supervised patient care. ECFMG offers a variety of other programs for the world's physicians and the entities worldwide that educate, train, register/license, and employ them.

ECFMG's organizational members are the American Board of Medical Specialties, American Medical Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, Association for Hospital Medical Education, Federation of State Medical Boards, and the National Medical Association.

For more information, visit the ECFMG website at www.ecfmg.org.