

I A M L A



**INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION
IN MEDICAL REGULATION**

IAMLA NEWS UPDATE APRIL 2002

Current Status of Major Initiatives

Working Group on the International Exchange of Information on Physicians (IEIP)

Efforts by the Working Group on the International Exchange of Information on Physicians (IEIP) has led to the development of a questionnaire for medical licensing/regulatory authorities to complete regarding their technical ability and legal authority, and willingness, to share registration and disciplinary data on individual licensees. The information collected as a result of the questionnaire will assist in the development of recommendations on IEIP for presentation at IAMLA's first Members General Meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the 5th International Conference on Medical Regulation in Toronto, Canada in June 2002.

The General Medical Council (GMC), on behalf of the Working Group, secured the services of an international market research company based in England to assist in the design of the questionnaire. Individual questionnaires were forwarded to all known medical authorities at the end of March 2002. The IEIP questionnaire is divided into four (4) sections which gather information relating to the function and mission of each organization, including their current arrangements and willingness to work towards improving the exchange of information between medical regulators in other countries. The results of the survey will be forwarded to the IGC, the Working Group and all questionnaire respondents. The Working Group will then proceed with its mandate, which is:

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

Proposals on IEIP, including such things as the establishment of a permanent electronic data-sharing process, will be presented at the June meeting.

Working Group on Constitution and Bylaws

The Working Group on Constitution and Bylaws presented its draft document to the IGC for approval in February 2002, including an amendment to change the name of the

organization to the *International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA)*. The name change was recommended to clarify and reflect the broader and variable role of medical regulatory bodies, rather than implying a narrow focus on licensure.

The Working Group recommended that each member organization be allowed two participating delegates at meetings of “IAMRA” membership, with one delegate from each *country* entitled to vote since some countries may have several independent state/provincial/territorial medical regulatory authorities as members of IAMRA. The IGC approved the document and has circulated it to IAMRA’s eight (8) founding member organizations for final affirmation in preparation for implementation in June. The new document and a draft budget and dues structure will be forwarded to medical authorities around the world in April 2002, along with an invitation to join IAMRA. With this work completed, the IGC accepted the recommendation for dissolving the Working Group on Constitution and Bylaws and expressed appreciation for their work under their chair, Dr. Len Becker.

International Directory of Medical Regulatory Authorities

Efforts continue for the development of an International Directory of all known medical regulatory authorities in the world. This directory will include the usual core information relating to address and communication sites/portals. Also for inclusion will be as much information as can be obtained on the 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 Web site containing this information with links to each organization’s Web page is being proposed for easy access by IAMRA membership. The initial product will be presented at the June conference. Following the conference, the directory will be regularly updated and refined as information is provided to the Secretariat.

Other Implementation Issues – Budget and Dues Structure

The IGC is in the process of developing a budget and dues structure for IAMRA. Consideration is being given to implementing a four-tiered dues structure based upon each country’s Gross National Income (GNI) per capita as determined by the World Bank. This is a model used by some other international bodies. Consideration is also being given to the creation of an initial support fund and to the solicitation of donations from external benevolent organizations or foundations to provide some assistance to member regulatory authorities whose participation in IAMRA might be restricted otherwise.

5th International Conference on Medical Regulation

Final plans are being completed for the 5th International Conference on Medical Regulation, a joint meeting of IAMRA and the Federation of Medical Licensing Authorities of Canada (FMLAC), which will be held in Toronto, Canada on June 15-18, 2002. IAMRA’s first Members General Meeting is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, June 15. Packets of information regarding the conference were mailed out in February 2002. The conference is open to physicians as well as non-physicians who

work in the field of medical licensure and regulation or have a particular interest in this area. Program highlights include an international regulatory authority “roundabout” session on current regional issues; an educational forum focusing on public access to physician information and the exchange of appropriate information between medical regulatory authorities; a poster exhibit and demonstration; and satellite visits to Canadian licensing authorities. Additional news about the conference can be retrieved from FMLAC’s Web site at www.fmlac.com or by contacting Ms. Sylvia Smith at:

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