

UM, FAU await results of accreditation visit for medical program

Dale King 03/12/2009 00:38:00

Officials at [Florida Atlantic University](#) and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine should know by early summer if the joint physician training program the schools offer will be accredited to continue.

A site visit team from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) recently completed visits to the FAU and UM campuses, taking with them assessments, data and perspectives that will play a key role in determining whether the medical school is reaccredited.

"This was the first time the Regional Medical Campus at FAU underwent the LCME accreditation process," said Michael Friedland, M.D., vice president for medical programs at the FAU campus.

"We perceived the survey as having a generally favorable outcome and we look forward to the regional campus being in a position to continue to plan for future clinical experiences."

Giselle Reid, communications coordinator for the Charles E. Schmidt College of Biomedical Science, said the accreditation team is expected to report back by June or July.

The in-depth audit of the joint medical program begun four years ago at UM and FAU is designed to ensure that it meets rigorous guidelines for service and quality.

The re-certification process, which occurs every eight years, checks for adherence to LCME standards and required a site visit to both the Miami and Boca campuses for extensive staff interviews and documentation review. LCME is the sole accrediting body for all allopathic medical schools in the United States and Canada.

Thorough Scrutiny

"The LCME site visitors thoroughly scrutinized every aspect of the Miller School's operations," said Laurence B. Gardner, M.D., professor of medicine and executive dean for education and policy, of the site visit which took place over four consecutive days.

"The examiners had opportunities to interact with faculty, staff and students on our campuses in Miami and at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton," he said. "While the final report and conclusions will not be delivered until June at the earliest, the preliminary report for the school identified only a small number of concerns, all of which we feel can be addressed to the satisfaction of the LCME."

The program began in 2004 as a project that allowed medical students to attend FAU in Boca for two years, then complete the courses of study in Miami. They would then do internships in Miami.

A recent switch allows students to attend all four years at FAU. Boca Raton Community Hospital was to build a teaching hospital on the Boca campus for internships, but that fell through due to funding troubles at BRCH.

The accreditation is an endorsement that the postsecondary educational institution conforms to nationally-recognized standards for medical school function, structure and performance. The accreditation process also fosters institutional and program improvement.

LCME final status reports produce one of three potential outcomes, which are accredited, probationary, or non-accredited.