

## **Overview of the accreditation of postgraduate medical education programs in Canada and China** **Dandan Shi, Jingjing Chen, Zhongqing Xu, Yuwei Wang, Asif Doja , Susan Humphrey-Murto**

### Introduction

Globalization of medicine is growing with increasing numbers of migrating doctors and cross-border education providers. Unfortunately, there is considerable variation in the medical education experiences offered around the world.<sup>1</sup> One mechanism to promote high-quality medical education is through accreditation, which can be defined as a process by which a designated authority reviews and evaluates an educational institution using a set of clearly defined criteria.<sup>2</sup> International accreditation standards are of growing interest with the ultimate aim of improving the health of all people. Implementation is challenging, and will require physicians and education leaders to better understand one another. The recent collaboration between the Shanghai Jiao Tong School of Medicine and University of Ottawa provides an opportunity to explore two systems of accreditation. The purpose of this project is to provide an overview and compare the post-graduate accreditation programs from two vastly different systems.

### Methods

A literature search of MEDLINE, OVID, and PubMed databases with the key terms 'accreditation' AND 'postgraduate medical education' returned approximately 430 references. Other information included gray literature and real world experience of accreditors from China (DS) and Canada (AD).

### Results and Conclusions

Significant differences were noted with the China accreditation system demonstrating a high level of government control, lack of resident participation and standards that were more general. The Canadian system has minimal government oversight, involves residents and has highly specific requirements. Actual processes and procedures were similar. We hope this information promotes a dialogue to enable critical and innovative thinking to foster international accreditation efforts.

### Reference

- 1 Karle H. Global Standards and Accreditation in Medical Education: A View from the WFME. *Academic Medicine* 2006; Vol. 81, No. 12.
- 2 Van Zanten C, Norcini JJ, Boulet JR, Simon F. Overview of Accreditation of Undergraduate Medical Education. *Medical Education* 2008; 42: 930-937.