

BERLIN AMSE CONSENSUS PAPER

**“EVOLUTION OF MEDICAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS ACROSS EUROPE:
ARE WE AT RISK?”**

The AMSE (Association of Medical Schools in Europe) 2014 conference, organised in collaboration with the German Medizinische Fakultätentag (MFT), was held in Berlin, Germany, September 13 - 14, 2014.

The background of the AMSE-MFT joint symposium was the "uncontrolled" increase of public and private medical schools, franchise-cross-border models of medical schools, differences in medical programmes, in quality assurance procedures and in the automatic recognition of physician licenses across Europe according to the EU Directive 2005/36/EC and EU Directive 2013/55/EU. Competent and well known speakers from different stakeholders such as medical education, deans of medical schools from different countries, academic hospitals and regulatory authorities, accreditation experts and WHO-Europe presented their data and ideas and more than 50 delegates from 18 different countries had stimulating and lively discussions.

The outputs of the meeting which were agreed by all participants were as follows:

- The **study of medicine** is an **academic scientifically-based programme** and medical schools and affiliated hospitals have to guarantee an appropriate academic scientific infrastructure.
- The **development of technology** especially communication technology, the economic crisis, integrative processes in Europe (European Union) and globalization in general inevitably influence medical education. Many new developments mark the evolution of the medical school now in the beginning of the 21st century. Distance learning via the internet, 'e-learning', has become increasingly popular in recent years. It offers an opportunity to gain a qualification and experience a full university education while continuing in employment or other daytime responsibilities. However when it comes to practical medical training where is the limit?
- **Internationalisation** and mobility of medical students is becoming more and more intensive.
- **Uncontrolled growth** of medical schools, public and private, and franchise-cross-border models of medical schools, sometimes of doubtful quality, may

erode standards and may damage health care. They may disrupt policy on the managed and good quality development of medical education and health care.

- **All involved stakeholders** should stay in closer touch in the future and improve their communication.
- We must build a closer collaboration with **politicians** and **EU-policy**.
- We need **Europe-wide standards** for medical education programmes, medical schools, franchise-cross-border models of medical schools and academic hospitals.
- Based on these standards we need **Europe-wide valid quality assurance procedures**.
- **Recognition of physician licences** should be based on these approved standards and adequate language, knowledge and skills tests.

AMSE must and will take a leading initiative in these proposed outputs in order to ensure that we are not at risk in the future.

Peter Dieter, AMSE President

Berlin, 14 September 2014