

## Press Release (Pakistan Medical Commission)



### PMC refutes the facts narrated in Dawn regarding the accreditation of the PMDC with WFME

2nd August, 2022

The news published in the daily The Dawn on 2nd August 2022 an alleged bulletin issued by the ad-hoc council of erstwhile PMDC issued in 2018 has been referred to and supported by statements of former President PMDC Dr. Shabbir Lehri have been referred to claiming that he had started the WFME recognition process in 2017 and paid Rs.7 million as fee and claiming the WFME visit could not materialize as PMDC was dissolved. He has further alleged that a visit by WFME President took place during his tenure.

As per records of PMDC verified it can be confirmed that no bulletin as claimed was found. Furthermore, as per records, WFME issued an invoice on 21st April 2017 for payment of US\$1,000 as fee for ascertaining the 'eligibility' of PMDC for a WFME recognition process. This fee was per records of PMDC was paid on 16th November 2018, over a year and half after the invoice was issued. No payment of Rs.7 million was paid to WFME as per PMDC records and nor is the fee of WFME Rs.7 million or even close thereto.

The visit of WFME was not cancelled on account of dissolution of PMDC. An initial visit was planned by WFME to review the actual accreditation process as carried out by PMDC itself of two colleges; Shifa Medical College and Army Medical College. This would have been a review visit and not the final inspection. This was planned for August 2019 however, was cancelled by WFME as is stated in the email dated 8th July 2019 of the President WFME because PMDC had not confirmed its readiness and had not fulfilled the requirements. The key issue as highlighted by the President WFME on 8th July 2019 was that PMDC had initially submitted its 2012 Accreditation Standards and thereafter, had referred to the 2018 and 2019 Accreditation Standards. It was made clear that with new standards of 2019 the process would have to be initiated again. The email and the invoice as well as payment of the invoice are being published and which negate the version of both the alleged bulletin and statement of Dr. Shabbir Lehri.

As is seen the WFME initial visit was not cancelled due to PMDC dissolution, in fact when it was cancelled Dr. Lehri was himself a member of the erstwhile PMDC Council in July 2019. It is unfortunate that consistent misinformation is being spread to falsely represent that PMDC was ready to obtain WFME recognition. PMDC as can be seen took over a year and half to pay a simple initial invoice of WFME and as can be seen from the WFME's own email was never ready for inspection having failed to fulfil even the fundamental requirements. WFME recognition requires extensive work and not just standards on paper but also implementation of the standards and processes, which the Pakistan Medical Commission has worked tirelessly and with immense efficiency to complete within an 18 month period. A small group of vested interests for their personal benefits are sadly seeking to undermine not just the Pakistan Medical Commission and its work but in doing so are willing to destroy Pakistan and Pakistani doctors and medical students futures and ability to work and train internationally.

Best regards,

Dr Saeed Hamid  
Professor of Medicine  
Consultant Gastroenterologist  
Director, Clinical Trials Unit  
Aga Khan University  
Karachi, Pakistan

On 09-Jul-2019, at 9:41 PM, Dr. Sitara Hassan <registraroffice@pmdc.org.pk<mailto:registraroffice@pmdc.org.pk>> wrote:

Please see below the WFME queries.

Regards,  
Dr. Sitara Hassan  
PM&DC

Begin forwarded message:

From: President WFME <president@wfme.org<mailto:president@wfme.org>>  
Date: 8 July 2019 at 6:41:54 PM GMT+5  
To: Medical Education <medicaleducation@pmdc.org.pk<mailto:medicaleducation@pmdc.org.pk>>, sitara hassan <sitara\_hassan\_1986@hotmail.com<mailto:sitara\_hassan\_1986@hotmail.com>>  
Cc: Accreditation Admin <accreditation@wfme.org<mailto:accreditation@wfme.org>>, Jack Boulet <jboulet@faimer.org<mailto:jboulet@faimer.org>>  
Subject: Re: WFME Visit for Recognition of PM&DC -2019

Dear Dr Hassan

Thank you for the emails sent by you on 6 July. There are a number of points for clarification.

First, there were three emails and I do not know in what way they are different. The addressees in the cc fields appear to be different, is that the reason for three separate emails? To avoid confusion, I am replying in this note to the first of the mails that arrived, and I am not copying this reply to any of your colleagues in Pakistan although of course you are welcome to forward it.

Second, the proposed schedule says that the site visit to be observed may be at the Army Medical College, or at the Shifa College of Medicine. WFME needs to know, now, which one of these it will be.

Third, can you please clarify who will be the members of the PMDC team who will be accrediting either the Army Medical College, or the Shifa College of Medicine? Can you confirm that this is a routine accreditation visit that our team will be observing, not a specially-staged showcase accreditation visit?

Fourth, our team will need to see the self-evaluation prepared by the College to be assessed. This must surely already be available, given that the site visit is only four weeks away.

Fifth, the proposed schedule implies two hours at the college campus on 6 August, and four hours at the affiliated hospitals on the following day. Is that the normal duration of an accreditation visit? On page 28 of the document <http://www.pmdc.org.pk/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Y6tXgbbhP8c%3d&tabid=429&mid=1101> <<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pmdc.org.pk%2FLinkClick.aspx%3Ffileticket%3DY6tXgbbhP8c%253d%26tabid%3D429%26mid%3D1101&data=02%7C01%7Csaeed.hamid%40aku.edu%7C733841df1cdd49227db808d7048bf805%7Ca5d4252a02f94e6096f09733baae4919%7C0%7C0%7C636982871570302212&sdata=LImfQa%2FbaibVTP8Q6zvDDHpYgdnhdm6TwXP5FLTaYLw%3D&reserved=0>> the timetable for a site visit is shown as two whole days, both from 0900 to 1600. I appreciate that this document is referring to the 2019 accreditation framework, and that the 2012 protocol may be different. Our team will need to observe the entirety of an accreditation visit (as you know from the documents about the process on our website) as well as observing a decision-making meeting of the PMDC committee that makes decisions on accreditation.

Sixth, the proposed schedule includes two sightseeing sessions, but our team will not be able to accept these kind invitations. I attach our paper on the conduct of Site Visits in the WFME programme, which sets out this and other relevant points.

As you know from our earlier correspondence, if a WFME team inspects the 2012 system, then a whole new inspection

be required in due course for the new, 2019, system and that will require a second recognition fee. Provided that the 2019 system is observed by WFME and accorded Recognition Status, a separate inspection of the 2012 system would not be needed to meet the 2023 ECFMG deadline.

These points need to be resolved very quickly if our team members are to have time to arrange their visas, and for our travel agent to arrange travel. I therefore need a reply from you within 24 hours. If we are not completely reassured by the response, we will ask for the site visit to be delayed.

Once we are sure that you and your colleagues are completely ready, we will need to move very fast. My colleague Barbora Hrabalova will issue an invoice for the next tranche of the recognition fee, and this will need to be paid promptly.

Best wishes  
Yours sincerely

David Gordon

PROFESSOR DAVID GORDON

President

president@wfme.org<mailto:president@wfme.org> | www.wfme.org<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wfme.org&data=02%7C01%7Csaeed.hamid%40aku.edu%7C733841df1cdd49227db808d7048bf805%7Ca5d4252a02f94e6096f09733baae4919%7C0%7C0%7C636982871570312208&sdata=c4H%2FddzLuCUtigIEA1a6WGwEkLhvpN9zNBauEvAqC%2Fs%3D&reserved=0>

[https://i.imgur.com/cr0Bpzv.png?3]

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On Sat, 6 Jul 2019 at 15:28, Medical Education <medicaleducation@pmdc.org.pk<mailto:medicaleducation@pmdc.org.pk>> wrote:

Dear Prof. Gordon,

Reference to our earlier correspondence on the subject cited above, please find enclosed the following updated documents.

I. The Pakistan Medical & Dental Council Ordinance –2019: detail can be found

on,

http://www.pmdc.org.pk/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=2aBhEO1J7lg%3d&tabid=292&mid=850<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pmdc.org.pk%2FLinkClick.aspx%3Ffileticket%3D2aBhEO1J7lg%253d%26tabid%3D292%26mid%3D850&data=02%7C01%7Csaeed.hamid%40aku.edu%7C733841df1cdd49227db808d7048bf805%7Ca5d4252a02f94e6096f09733baae4919%7C0%7C0%7C636982871570312208&sdata=cICBvQhFh3psu9laJ8f3bsLTWJDPRLap5NT34jh89gQ%3D&reserved=0>

II. Notifications of members of PM&DC dated 28th February and 11th March,

2019

III. Notification of President PM&DC dated 14th March, 2019

IV. Admission Regulation 2018 (as amended on 30th May, 2019): detail can be

found on,

http://www.pmdc.org.pk/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=D8TZb9B4bkg%3d&tabid=287&mid=1096<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pmdc.org.pk%2FLinkClick.aspx%3Ffileticket%3DD8TZb9B4bkg%253d%26tabid%3D287%26mid%3D1096&data=02%7C01%7Csaeed.hamid%40aku.edu%7C733841df1cdd49227db808d7048bf805%7Ca5d4252a02f94e6096f09733baae4919%7C0%7C0%7C636982871570322207&sdata=j4loUO1s7qIZ3ybRAW04drv63WGa%2Fg%2F1N9S24GEPpoE%3D&reserved=0>

V. National Accreditation frame work for medical and dental schools in Pakistan-

2019: detail can be found on,

# Re: WFME Visit for Recognition of PM&DC -2019

Wed, 07/10/2019 12:47 AM

**From:** [President WFME <president@wfme.org>]

**To:** [Medical Education <medicaleducation@pmdc.org.pk>, sitara hassan <sitara\_hassan\_1986@hotmail.com>]

**Cc:** [Accreditation Admin <accreditation@wfme.org>, Jack Boulet <jboulet@faimer.org>]

Dear Dr Hassan

In the absence of any response from you within the 24 hour deadline that we set, I regret that I will have to advise the WFME recognition team that the proposed visit during the week starting 5 August is not now possible.

I suggest that we need to work to resolve the issues that I set out in the email I sent yesterday, and in the earlier correspondence, and identify a new date later in the year.

With best wishes  
Yours sincerely

David Gordon

**PROFESSOR DAVID GORDON**

President

[president@wfme.org](mailto:president@wfme.org) | [www.wfme.org](http://www.wfme.org)



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On Mon, 8 Jul 2019 at 15:41, President WFME <president@wfme.org> wrote:

Dear Dr Hassan

Thank you for the emails sent by you on 6 July. There are a number of points for clarification.

First, there were three emails and I do not know in what way they are different. The addressees in the cc fields appear to be different, is that the reason for three separate emails? To avoid confusion, I am replying in this note to the first of the mails that arrived, and I am not copying this reply to any of your colleagues in Pakistan although of course you are welcome to forward it.

Federación Mundial de Educación Médica

World Federation for  
Medical Education

Fédération mondiale pour l'éducation médicale

世界医学教育联合会

Всемирная федерация медицинского образования

الاتحاد العالمي للتعليم الطبي

wfme

WORLD FEDERATION FOR  
MEDICAL EDUCATION

President: Professor David Gordon FRCP FMedSci

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E-mail: [wfme@wfme.org](mailto:wfme@wfme.org)  
Website: [www.wfme.org](http://www.wfme.org)

21 April 2017

To Pakistan Medical & Dental Council

By email to Dr Sitara Hassan  
Assistant Registrar, Pakistan Medical & Dental Council  
[intdesk@pmdc.org.pk](mailto:intdesk@pmdc.org.pk); [pmdc@pmdc.org.pk](mailto:pmdc@pmdc.org.pk)

### INVOICE

Reference: PMDC Recognition  
Amount: US \$1,000

Description	Quantity	Amount in \$ US Dollars
Fee for examination of eligibility for the WFME Recognition of Accreditation Programme, as outlined in the papers at <a href="http://wfme.org/accreditation/whowfme-policy">http://wfme.org/accreditation/whowfme-policy</a>  The fee is payable at the time the form is submitted. In the event that examination of the application form shows that the agency is not eligible for recognition by WFME, this fee is non-refundable.	1	\$1,000
<b>Total amount payable to WFME Ltd, operating as the World Federation for Medical Education</b>		<b>\$1,000</b>

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

/Doc No:1526178686

201802029287 /Br:

1200 /Doc

No:1529667422

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0.00

2,589.96

16-Nov-2018

1529667422

SWIFT SHORT MSG

CHARGES /Br: 1200

/Doc No:1529667423

7.46

0.00

2,582.50

16-Nov-2018

1529667423

16-Nov-2018

16-Nov-2018