

Minutes

Western Pacific Association for Medical Education

Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting being held on Zoom

**Monday 20 July 2026 (*Sunday 19 July 2026 in
USA/Trinidad and Tobago*)**

Western Pacific Association for Medical Education Annual Advisory Board Meeting

Date: **Monday 20 July 2026**

Venue:

Location	Local Time	Time Zone
Apia (Samoa)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 12:30pm-2:00pm	WST
<i>Atlanta (USA)</i>	<i>Sunday, 19 July 2026 at 7:30pm-9:00pm</i>	<i>EDT</i>
Beijing (China)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 7:30am-9:00am	CST
Canberra (Australia)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 9:30am-11:00am	AEST
Ho Chi Minh (Viet Nam)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 6:30am-8:00am	ICT
Jakarta (Indonesia)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 6:30am-8:00am	WIB
Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 7:30am-9:00am	MYT
Manila (Philippines)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 7:30am-9:00am	PHST
Melbourne (Australia)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 9:30am-11:00am	AEST
Phnom Penh (Cambodia)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 6:30am-8:00am	ICT
Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 9:30am-11:00am	PGT
Seoul (South Korea)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 8:30am-10:00am	KST
Singapore (Singapore)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 7:30am-9:00am	SGT
Suva (Fiji)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 11:30am-1:00pm	FJT
Taipei (Taiwan)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 7:30am-9:00am	CST
<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i>	<i>Sunday, 19 July 2026 at 7:30pm-9:00pm</i>	<i>AST</i>
Vientiane (Laos)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 6:30am-8:00am	ICT
Wellington (New Zealand)	Monday, 20 July 2026 at 11:30am-1:00pm	NZST

Zoom: **Zoom video conference**

Attendees: **Professor Wayne Hodgson**, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University, Australia (President, WPAME)
Professor Weimin Wang, Working Committee for Accreditation of Medical Education, China (Vice President, WPAME)
Professor Tai-Lung Cha, Taiwan Medical Accreditation Council, (observer member)
Dr Shan-Chwen Chang, Taiwan Medical Accreditation Council
Dr Kenneth Clark, Education Committee, Medical Council of New Zealand (tentative)
Dr Marisa Nimrod, Executive Director, WFME
Professor Emiola Oluwabunmi Olapade-Olaopa, President Elect, WFME
Professor Alfaretta Luisa Reyes, College of Medicine, University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Philippines (observer member)
Dr Dujeepe Samarasekera, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore
Professor Dr Syarifah Sulaiha Syed Aznal, Malaysian Medical Council, Malaysia
Professor Nakapi Tefuarani, School of Medicine & Health Sciences, University of PNG, Papua New Guinea
Professor Diep Tuan Tran, University of Medicine and Pharmacy (UMP), Viet Nam
Professor Toshimasa Yoshioka, Japan Accreditation Council for Medical Education (JACME) (observer member).

WCAME **Ms Nali Jia** Deputy Director of the WCAME Secretariat Office
Secretariat:

WPAME **Ms Liesl Perryman**, Executive Officer, WPAME, Strategic Project Officer, Australian Medical Council
Secretariat: **Ms Theanne Walters AM**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Australian Medical Council

Apologies/
unable to
attend: **Professor Ooyungoo Badamdorj**, Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences, Mongolia. Apology
Professor Youttiroung Bounchan, Faculty of Medicine, University of Health Sciences (UHS), Cambodia
Professor Hoon-Ki Park, Korean Society of Medical Education (KSME), South Korea)
Professor Alongkone Phengsavanah, University of Health Sciences, Laos
Professor Titi Savitri Prihatiningsih, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia. Apology
Mr Sharif Mohammed Sadat, Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, International Federation of Medical Students' Association. Apology
Dr Amelia Turagabeci, Fiji National University, Fiji
Professor Joselito Villaruz, West Visayas State University, Philippines

Contents

1. Attendance	1
2. Apologies	1
3. Minutes of the Advisory Board meeting on 23 January 2026	1
4. Matters arising	1
5. WPAME President's update	2
6. Introduction from President Elect, WFME	2
7. Updates from WPAME Executive Committee on future plans and projects..	3
8. Members' discussion	3
9. Update from IFMSA	4
10. Other agenda items without notice	4
11. Next meeting of the Advisory Board.....	4
12. Close of meeting.....	4

Attachments

Attachment A	Presentation, Professor Emiola Oluwabunmi Olapade-Olaopa, President Elect, WFME
--------------	---

Agenda

Opening of meeting and welcome to WPAME members and representatives

1. Attendance

Welcome to members and our new members and representatives:

- Dr Marisa Nimrod, Executive Director, WFME
- Professor Emiola Oluwabunmi Olapade-Olaopa, President Elect, WFME
- Professor Toshimasa Yoshioka, Japan Accreditation Council for Medical Education (JACME) (observer member).

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following members:

- Professor Ooyungoo Badamdorj, *Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences, Mongolia.*
- Professor Titi Savitri Prihatiningsih, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia. Apology
- Mr Sharif Mohammed Sadat, Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, International Federation of Medical Students' Association. Apology

Members who were unable to join the meeting:

- Professor Youttiroung Bounchan, Faculty of Medicine, University of Health Sciences (UHS), Cambodia
- Professor Hoon-Ki Park, Korean Society of Medical Education (KSME), South Korea
- Professor Alongkone Phengsavanah, University of Health Sciences, Laos
- Dr Amelia Turagabeci, Fiji National University, Fiji
- Professor Joselito Villaruz, West Visayas State University, Philippines.

3. Minutes of the Advisory Board meeting on 23 January 2026

The Board CONFIRMED the minutes of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

4.1 Reappointment of Office Bearers

Members NOTED the reappointment of Office Bearers, Prof Wayne Hodgson and Prof Weimin Wang for the next two years, until June 2028. Members also noted the resignation of Assoc Prof Jill Benson AM, from the role of Corporate Secretary/Treasurer. Members will be updated regarding the new appointment to the role of Corporate Secretary/Treasurer shortly.

4.2 Development of ScholarRX Learning resources, Bricks

Members NOTED the agreement for WPAME to collaborate with ScholarRx in building learning objects, known as Bricks, may need to be made with Australian Medical Council or a similar organisation, as WPAME is not a legal entity. The President and secretariat will update members if an agreement can be made to allow work to begin with interested medical student bodies in the region.

4.3 Members' collaboration page on Teams

Members NOTED that a collaboration page had been established on Teams to facilitate discussions on activities in WPAME.

5. WPAME President's update

Prof Wayne, WPAME President, provided an update on activities:

- WFME Executive Council meeting held in March in Nigeria at the AMSA conference.
- Nominations for the next WFME President were called and Prof Emiola Oluwabunmi Olapade-Olaopa was elected, with his tenure starting on 1 January 2027. Prof Olapade-Olaopa is the current President of the African Medical Schools Association (AMSA) and a strong supporter of international medical education.
- Prof Ricardo León-Bórquez, WFME President's term will end on 31 December 2026.
- WFME has been concentrating on ensuring financial stability and has changed the organisation's model and established the role of Executive Director, which has been filled by Dr Marisa Nimrod, the successful applicant.
- The next WFME Executive meeting will be held online in October 2026 and the next face to face meeting will be held in Berlin, March 2027.
- WFME will hold a conference every three years, with the next Conference to be held in 2028 in one of the PanAmerican countries.
- Mongolia are hosting a conference in Ulaanbaatar:
 - Medical Education: New Paradigm and Global Trends
October 16, 2026 (Full Day Conference) & October 17, 2026 (Cultural Event & Sightseeing)
Location: Ulaanbaatar Gallery Conference Hall, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Host: Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences (MNUMS).
- Theanne Walters and the Australian Medical Council (AMC) are hosting Prof Weimin Wang and colleagues from Working Committee for Accreditation of Medical Education, China, at the AMC in Canberra, Australia in August.

6. Introduction from President Elect, WFME

Prof Emiola Oluwabunmi Olapade-Olaopa, President Elect, joined the meeting later in proceedings due to a travel delay, introduced himself and provided a verbal presentation.

Prof Oluwabunmi advised he would like to make a few changes in 2027, including:

- Encourage expansion of the role of WFME in medical education and accreditation
- Supporting the new role of the WFME CEO and strengthen the 'back end' of WFME.
- Support a collective, productive leadership, and the increasing the role of the regional Presidents
- Ensure WFME are accountable to the regions and that the regions are more active in execution of the plans
- Encourage the regional Presidents to be more involved in the regional accreditation processes
- Increase collaboration with major international organisations involved in medical education such as:
 - WHO
 - General Assembly of the United Nations
 - G20.
- WFME need to 'be at the table, not on the menu'.

A PowerPoint of the key points in his presentation was circulated to members following the meeting, and is available at ATTACHMENT A.

Prof Wayne updated Prof Oluwabunmi that WPAME countries are developing processes in AI and Prof Oluwabunmi commented that AI will increase the divide – it will increase the competence of a good educator and a good doctor, but make the bad educator or bad doctor, worse.

7. Updates from WPAME Executive Committee on future plans and projects

Prof Wang provided a brief update from the Executive.

- Provided an update on WCAME's previous demonstration of China's work on the AI management system for accreditation in medical education.
 - WCAME is working hard on the system which will capture accreditation information on all medical education and a range of allied health programs in China. The system will be implemented in the second half of 2026.
 - The system incorporates all elements of planning and implementing an accreditation assessment program.
 - The MedSeek large language model developed by the National Centre for Health Professions Education Development, has now completed the multilingual version.
 - All members are invited to trial the system once the testing is completed.

Prof Nakapi asked if we will develop a policy on the use of AI in accreditation?

Prof Wayne mentioned that WFME will likely be exploring the development of a policy or guidelines regarding AI in accreditation. Australia, among other countries, are exploring policy developments. WPAME also need to discuss how the Association will be embracing AI.

Dr Dujeeпа advised Singapore has also learnt a great deal from Prof Weimin's earlier presentation at the January WPAME meeting and are now working on refining the use of AI in quality insurance processes. Dr Dujeeпа feels that in addition to WFME developing guidelines for the use of AI in accreditation, each authority or country should develop their own AI policy, relevant to their specific context.

Dr Dujeeпа also mentioned major changes in Singapore with regards to standards and the national outcomes framework.

Prof Wayne offered to share policies and processes from Monash University, on the use of AI and also suggested the AMC and WPAME members could share their current ideas and policies to assist members who are still in the development phase.

Dr Marisa Nimrod shared she has been a heavy user of AI and would welcome input from members with regards to AI policies and processes that have been developed in member countries/organisations, to provide input into the WFME policy development.

8. Members' discussion

Prof Nakapi, Papua New Guinea, updated the Board that the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Papua New Guinea, is now a standalone university, Papua New Guinea University of Medicine and Health Sciences. The university will fully commence in January 2027.

Prof Sulaiha, from Malaysia, shared they have recently released new AI standards that all higher education institutes need to abide by. The Ministry of Higher Education has lifted the moratorium on limiting medical places at universities and are increasing numbers of students. As of June 2026, the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) is now available for recognition of universities with Malaysian graduates or universities with graduates wanting to work in Malaysia.

Prof Diep Tuan updated members that the Vietnamese Medical Council will have a national licensing exam in 2027. They are receiving support from Korea Health Personnel Licensing Examination Institute (KHPLI) in developing their exams for implementation in March and December 2027.

Since the new law was passed by the Vietnamese National Assembly, the Vietnamese Accreditation Agency will soon apply to WFME for recognition of their agency.

Dr Marisa Nimrod advised she is the new Executive Director, head of the WFME Secretariat. Her role's scope is being finalised but currently she is accountable to the WFME Executive Committee and is working with Prof Ricardo, WFME President, and the Secretariat staff. She is focusing on strategic leadership, strategic plans, finances, human resources and ensuring compliance as a British charity based in London.

9. Update from IFMSA

Our International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA), Representative, Sadat M. Sharif, was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting.

10. Other agenda items without notice

Prof Wayne advised Members that Dr Kenneth Clark has stepped down as Medical Council of New Zealand's (MCNZ) representative and thanked him for his contributions to WPAME. Dr Ainsley Goodman will represent the MCNZ going forward.

11. Next meeting of the Advisory Board

The next meeting of the Advisory Board will be held face to face at APMEC 2027 in Kyoto, Japan in January 2027. Members will be updated of the date and time of the meeting when details are finalised.

12. Close of meeting

My Vision for the World Federation for Medical Education (2027-2031 Tenure)

By:

E. Oluwabunmi Olapade-Olaopa Esq.

MBBS, MD, FMed. Ed., FRCS, FWACS, ACI Arb, FAS, FNAMed, FAMedS

WFME President-Elect

Presented to the WPAME Advisory Board Meeting (Virtual)

July 20 , 2026

Introduction

- **Honored by election as WFME President-Elect.**
- Significant governance changes since 2018.
- Unique Presidential functions needed in current global context.
- **Aim of Presidency**
 - Contribute to advancing excellence in medical education worldwide.

The WFME Story So Far

- **Aims to enhance quality, equity, and integrity in medical education.**
- Two development phases: partnership with WHO and ECFMG collaboration.
- Established paid staff and a registered charity status.
- **Revision of standards supports global medical education development.**
- **Recognition program support quality assurance in Accreditation of medical schools**

Strengths of WFME

- **Known global brand with broad governance representation.**
- Established office and motivated secretariat staff.
- **WFME standards are recognized and widely accepted.**
- Recognition programme and World Directory contribute to income.
-

Areas of Concern

- Unpredictable funding and lack of a business plan.
- Perception as a 'Western' agency in some regions.
- No mechanisms for monitoring Accreditation Agencies once recognized.

Opportunities for WFME

- **Opportunities for WFME**
- Global brand and history in quality assurance.
- **Resource in Regional Presidents for deeper market penetration.**

Threats to the Organization

- Declining recognition requests and published criticisms.
- Misinterpretations regarding medical education as a business.
- **Opportunistic calls for a new, equitable global education agency.**

My Vision for WFME

- An equitable and accountable WFME.
- Commitment to integrity, inclusivity, and social responsibility.
- Collaboration among global stakeholders for improved health outcomes.
-

Core Strategies Overview - I

- **Leadership Approach**
 - Need for collaborative and respected leadership in medical education.
- **Corporate Governance Strategy**
 - Ensure responsiveness to global needs through stakeholder engagement.
- **WFME Management**
 - Support for new Executive Director and effective administrative processes.
-

Core Strategies Overview - II

- **Increasing Global Visibility**

- Enhance interaction with WHO and regional bodies to support local engagement.

- **Global Collaboration**

- Partner with WHO, United Nations, G20, the World Bank /IMF, and others to influence health policy.

- **Financial Sustainability**

- Develop innovative strategies for secure funding and fiscal transparency.

- **Quality Assurance and Accreditation**

- Strengthen regional involvement in accreditation processes to enhance buy-in.

Conclusion

- Commitment to excellence and social accountability.
- Vision for a sustainable and impactful organization.
- **Call to action for collaborative efforts in advancing medical education.**