Does your medical, dental or veterinary school offer a high quality education programme?

An ASPIRE Award allows medical, dental and veterinary schools to be recognised internationally for their excellence in education. ASPIRE recognition provides a school with an enhanced capability for:

- Monitoring the quality of its education programme and the extent to which it conforms to best practice
- Demonstrating and promoting its exceptional excellence in teaching and learning
- Highlighting the school as progressive responding to the demands of the 21st century

ASPIRE provides a mechanism that improves the education process and outcomes around the world by identifying, recognising and rewarding excellence in the field. No other process does this.

Read how your school can be considered for an ASPIRE Award

www.aspire-to-excellence.org
Education alongside Research as the Mission of the Medical, Dental or Veterinary School
Recognition of the importance of teaching alongside research as the mission of a school is on today’s agenda. Over the past decade, the move to recognise excellence in universities has been reflected in increasing attention being paid to university league tables. To date, however, university rankings have concentrated on research and with little attention paid to education. This has been rectified and there is now the opportunity for universities to obtain international recognition of excellence in medical, dental and veterinary education.

Recognition of Excellence in Education
The concept of teaching excellence has attracted increasing attention and recognition from academics, governments, regulators, students and the public, and is now part of the everyday language and practice of higher education.

Beyond Accreditation
There is a need for a form of quality assurance that recognises excellence which rightly falls outside the formal accreditation process and is the remit of professional education bodies. The ASPIRE programme has been established to go beyond the traditional accreditation process and to recognise that the education programme in a school can be subjected to peer review against an agreed set of standards or benchmarks that identify world-class excellence in education.

ASPIRE Initiative
The ASPIRE initiative encourages and promotes outstanding performance and excellence in education. The approach recognises that the characteristics of excellence will vary according to local contexts.

Areas to be Assessed
Areas selected for recognition of excellence are:
- Assessment of students
- Student Engagement in the curriculum and in the school
- Social Accountability of the school
- Faculty Development

Schools can opt to be assessed for excellence in one or more areas.

ASPIRE Award for Excellence in Faculty Development
Faculty Development in a medical, dental or veterinary school has been selected as the fourth area where excellence is recognised.

During 2015 an international panel of leading authorities will identify the criteria to be adopted for recognition of excellence in Faculty Development through a consultative process with the stakeholders. Applications in this theme are invited in October 2015 with a closing date of 31 January 2016.

Medical, Dental and Veterinary Schools
When first established in 2012 only medical schools were eligible to apply for ASPIRE recognition. From 2015 applications are also accepted from dental and veterinary schools for recognition of excellence in one or more of the four areas.
ASPIRE Award for Excellence in Assessment of Students

“...This is an endorsement of the hard work and efforts our staff make to ensure our students receive world-class medical education.”

“...We found it a useful exercise to look fundamentally at what we are doing with assessment of students in our curriculum.”

ASPIRE Award for Excellence in Social Accountability of the School

“It’s an affirmation that what we do is recognised by others through this rigorous process that says we’re top of the line, top of the world.”

“Our social accountability refers to how we engage, partner with and respond to the needs of our community.”
ASPIRE Award for Excellence in Student Engagement in the curriculum and in the school

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, USA
Aga Khan University Medical College, Pakistan
University of Maribor, Faculty of Medicine, Slovenia
International Medical University, Malaysia
The University of Western Australia, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences, Australia
School of Health Sciences, University of Minho, Portugal
University of Southampton, UK

“These awards exemplify how we continue to be a world-leader in medical education and provide our medical students with an innovative, engaging and patient-centred learning experience.”

“The ASPIRE reviewing criteria encouraged us to re-examine our approach to student engagement within our school.”
Defining Excellence in Education

A Board and four Panels made up of international leaders and experts in the field, practising teachers and students defined the criteria for excellence in each of the four areas:

- Assessment of students
- Student Engagement in the curriculum and in the school
- Social Accountability of the school
- Faculty Development (in progress)

The criteria produced represent a de facto set of standards for best practice in education and effectively outline what best practice in these areas should look like.

ASPIRE BOARD & PANEL MEMBERS

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David Pearson UK
Iain Robbe UK
David Steward USA
David Wilkinson Australia
Robert Woollard Canada

Faculty Development Panel

David Irby USA (Chair)

Panel members to be confirmed.
Submission Process
The application process has been designed not to be onerous and guidelines and templates are provided. Full details of the criteria in each of the areas of Assessment, Social Accountability and Student Engagement and information about the submission process can be found on the ASPIRE website at: www.aspire-to-excellence.org

Review of submissions is rigorous. Each submission is reviewed by a team of three assessors and their reports are considered by the relevant ASPIRE Panel. Recommendations from the panel are reviewed by the ASPIRE Board. Feedback is provided to the school about its submission.

Deadlines
The closing dates for 2015 submissions are:
Medical schools: 31 January 2015
Dental and veterinary schools: 31 March 2015

The closing dates for 2016 are:
Medical, dental and veterinary schools: 31 January 2016

Announcement of the awards
The ASPIRE awards are presented at the AMEE annual conference and reported in the press and on the ASPIRE website.

The successful schools receive an ASPIRE certificate, ASPIRE trophy and ASPIRE lapel pin.

ASPIRE-to-Excellence sessions at AMEE 2015, Glasgow, United Kingdom
05-09 September 2015

ASPIRE sessions are included in the programme at each AMEE conference. Sessions to be held at AMEE 2015 are listed below. Conference workshops and other presentations may be added at a later date.

Pre-Conference Workshops
PCW 4: Assessing assessment: Best practice approaches in assessment and tips for submitting a successful ASPIRE Award application in this area
Facilitators: Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, USA – winners of ASPIRE award in three areas.
PCW 18: Paths to student engagement in medical schools: Key ingredients among multiple paths
Facilitators: ASPIRE excellence in student engagement (SE) award winners from Asia, Australia, Europe and USA.

Symposia
5B: Faculty Development in the Health Professions: Best Practices and Future Trends
Facilitators: Yvonne Steinert and David Irby

10A: The Student-Teacher Relationship: Consumer of education or partner-in-learning?
Facilitators: ASPIRE Student Engagement Panel members

ASPIRE-to-Excellence Academy
All recipients of the ASPIRE Award are invited to join the newly-created ASPIRE-to-Excellence Academy and membership continues for the duration of their ASPIRE Award. The aim of the Academy is to promote excellence in education through collaboration and dissemination of best practice. It provides members the opportunity to network and share knowledge.

Academy members will promote the ASPIRE-to-Excellence initiative and contribute to its future development, play an active part in the ASPIRE review process and provide workshops and symposia to assist schools who wish to apply for ASPIRE recognition.

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