Postgraduate and continuing medical education in Switzerland

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Overview

• Greetings from the Swiss Medical Association (short)

• Postgraduate training in Switzerland (moderately short)

• Continuing medical education in Switzerland (very short)

• Osler (surprisingly short)
Medical Education Switzerland

• Pregraduate Training
  • 5 Universities
  • Curriculum
    • 3 years Bachelor level
    • 3 years Master level > Federal Exam
      (allows entrance to postgraduate training)

• Postgraduate Training

• Continuing Medical Education (CME/CPD)
Medical schools: diplomas in 2012
(All six medical schools are public)

Duration: 6 years

Full medical school  Pre-clinical studies only
Swiss Federal Law on Medical Professions (MedBG)

- Governs the fundamental principles of basic, specialty and continuing medical training and the practicing of medical professions
  - 43 Swiss specialist titles; duration
  - Objectives of specialist training
  - Procedural issues

- Accreditation: «suitable organization»
  - ONE organization = FMH → SIME
  - Outsourcing of responsibility for execution and financing
  - Supervision and control in the hands of the Confederation
Split up of FMH (2009)
(FMH = Foederatio Medicorum Helveticorum)

SIME: «Clean education»

FMH: «Politics and money»

ÄG Glarus 1994
FMH and SIME

Medical Chamber

Control Commission

SIME
Medical education
- Postgraduate training
- Continuing education (life-long)

FMH «union»
Professional politics
- Compensation
- Quality
- Demography
- Prevention
Organizational structure of SIME

**Management (n=5)**
President, 3 vice-presidents, executive director

**SIME Committee (n=19)**
Delegates representing major societies, universities, the government, etc.; guests
*Decides on the majority of matters*

**Plenary (n=56)**
Delegates representing all medical specialty societies, government, etc.; guests
*Right of referendum, minority of direct decisions*
Tasks of SIME: bestow titles

44 specialist titles + (general practitioner)
e.g. general internist/surgeon/forensic medicine

34 sub-specialties
e.g. ophthalmic surgery/neonatology/pediatric radiology

31 proficiency certificates
e.g. acupuncture/homeopathy/manual medicine/sports medicine
EU Convention on the Free Movement of Persons

Bilateral contracts ➔ Free Movement of Persons

• Domestic treatment of EU citizens in Switzerland and of Swiss citizens in the EU
• Reciprocal recognition of diplomas
• EU Guideline 2005/36
Legal bases

Medical Professions Act and orders

SIME Specialist Training Regulations

45 Postgraduate training programmes (SIME / specialised associations)
Postgraduate training programs

• Govern the detailed conditions for obtaining one of the 43 postgraduate titles:
  • Duration of specific postgraduate training (3-6 y)
  • eventually non-specific postgraduate training
  • Change of training centers
  • Research
  • Logbook
  • Content of study material
• Govern all the criteria for the recognition of postgraduate-training centers
Instruments for measuring quality of medical specialist training:

• Accreditation every seventh year (last time in 2011)
  Were goals of the law attained (conditions/recommendations)?

• Formative evaluation:
  • (e-)Logbook
  • Workplace-based assessments (Mini-CEX, DOPS)

• Summative evaluation:
  • Medical specialist examination

• On-site visits (100/y, specialty expert, independent, trainee)

• Annual survey among assistant physicians (67% return)
Titles granted 1997 - 2012
Responsibilities of SIME

1 Enact and revise Specialist Training Regulations
100 Revise/update/implement specialist training programs (medical specialist titles, sub-specialties, proficiency certificates)
10'000 Assistant physicians
1'500 Title applications/y
1'000 Inquiries from foreign physicians
1'500 Specialist training facilities (hospitals/clinics)
1'000 Physician practices with teaching function
100 Visitations/y
300 Office holders/commission members
Competences of SIME

- SIME is the organ of the FMH competent for the medical postgraduate training and continuing education

- Specialist training regulations:
  - Creation and annulment*
  - Revisions
  - Deciding on questions of interpretation of training regulations
  - Electing delegates representing SIME in:
    - Titles Commission (TK)
    - Postgraduate Training Centers Commission (WBK)
    - Commission for Objections concerning TK/WBK decisions

* Subject to the powers of the Medical Chamber and Swiss Federal Office of Public Health
Requirements: The example of surgery

• Total duration 6 years
• At least 4 years of surgery (2 years in a university or A years)
• Maximum of 2 years of special surgical disciplines
• Maximum of 2 years of scientific activities
• Logbook (defined interventions)
Training Program in General Internal Medicine

- Corresponds to a merger of two former training programs: General Medicine and Internal Medicine.

- Allows training based largely on individual choice across the entire spectrum, from family practitioner in a remote and isolated location in the Swiss Alps to internist at a university hospital.

- Part of the program (first 2 to 3 years) compulsory for training in former sub-specialties of internal medicine (cardiology, pulmonology, oncology, gastroenterology, nephrology, etc.) – but most sub-specialists still have completed the entire range of training in internal medicine.
# Training Program in General Internal Medicine

## Basisweiterbildung:
- 3 Jahre AIM
- mind. 2 Jahre stationäre AIM (Kategorie A – D; inkl. 3 Monate Notfallstation)
- mind. 6 Monate ambulante AIM (Kategorie I – IV)
- mind. 1 Jahr Kategorie A oder I

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<td>5. Jahr</td>
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## Aufbauweiterbildung:
- neben AIM stehen 31 Fachgebiete zur Auswahl gemäss Liste in Ziffer 2.3 des WBP
- die als Beispiele aufgeführten Fachgebiete illustrieren die Vielzahl der Möglichkeiten
- Perioden: in der Regel 6 bis 12 Monate
Continuing medical education

• MedBG 2007: continuing medical education (CME) is a professional obligation under the law.

• CME regulations:
  • 80 credits (≈ hours) per year
    • 30 self-study (not checked)
    • 25 specific CME (defined by specialist society)
    • 25 general CME
  • → CME programs for all medical specialist titles
  • CME certificate for FMH members
Self-study  
30 Credits  
• Proof not required  
• Automatically credited

General Continuing Education  
25 Credits  
• Proof required  
• Additional continuing education as a specialist  
• Non-specialist continuing education recognized by  
  – another specialist society  
  – a cantonal medical society  
  – Swiss Institute for Medical Education/Swiss Medical Association  
  – ASA, VAOS, SVHA, SANTH or SMPG in the field of complementary medicine

Specific Continuing Education  
25 Credits  
• Proof required  
• Defined and structured according to the specialty-specific continuing education program of a specialist society (specialist title)

80 hours per year
Sir William Osler (I):

• Beware of words – they are dangerous things. They change colour like the chameleon, and they return like a boomerang.

• Believe nothing that you see in the newspapers – they have done more to create dissatisfaction than all other agencies. If you see anything in them that you know is true, begin to doubt it at once.

• Medicine is a science of uncertainty and an art of probability.
Sir William Osler (II):

... and a touch of «Arbeitsmedizin»:

• It is always valuable to note the occupation of a patient. It may point to the diagnosis of the disease. The fact that a man with anomalous symptoms and a cutaneous eruption is a *wool sorter* may give the diagnosis of anthrax. Glanders is associated with *workers in stables* ... When a man with extreme pallor says he is a *painter*, this fact at once points to lead poisoning as the cause. The same with *taylors* as there is lead in the thread they use.