



EXCELENCIA EN EDUCACIÓN MÉDICA

## ASPIRE-to-Excellence Academy



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**Abstract** The ASPIRE-to-Excellence Academy was recently founded at the 2015 Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) conference in Glasgow. The academy is new pillar of the ASPIRE-to-Excellence initiative by AMEE, which aims at promoting and encouraging medical schools in achieving excellence in the categories of assessment, student engagement, social accountability or faculty development. The Academy panel consists of the members of the ASPIRE Board and representatives from schools which have been recognised with an ASPIRE-to-excellence award in one or more of the categories. Major goal of the ASPIRE-to-Excellence Academy is to foster collaboration between excellent medical schools and to allow them to exchange experiences and Best Practices. The Academy members are organising workshops and symposia at international conferences to inform medical schools about the ASPIRE-to-Excellence programme and the areas for recognition in excellence as well as to support medical school in preparing their applications.

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### PALABRAS CLAVE

Educación médica;  
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de la salud;  
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Evaluación educativa;  
Garantía de la  
calidad;  
Estándares de  
referencia;  
Reconocimientos y  
premios

### Academia ASPIRE para la Excelencia

**Resumen** La *academia ASPIRE para la excelencia* en educación médica es una nueva iniciativa de la Asociación para la Educación Médica en Europa (AMEE), puesta en marcha recientemente en Glasgow (2015). Esta academia constituye un nuevo pilar de la iniciativa ASPIRE, nace a propuesta de Asociación para la Educación Médica en Europa y tiene como objetivo fundamental fomentar la excelencia en educación médica a nivel internacional, y dar apoyo a las facultades de medicina para alcanzar la excelencia en las categorías de evaluación, participación y contribución de los estudiantes, responsabilidad social o desarrollo de la facultad. El panel de expertos de la *academia ASPIRE para la excelencia* está formado por miembros de los comités de ASPIRE y representantes de las facultades de medicina que han sido reconocidas con un premio ASPIRE a la excelencia en una o más de las categorías. El objetivo principal de la academia ASPIRE a la excelencia es fomentar la colaboración

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entre las facultades de medicina excelentes para que puedan intercambiar experiencias y sus mejores prácticas. Los miembros de la academia ASPIRE organizan talleres y simposios en las conferencias internacionales para dar a conocer a las facultades de medicina el programa *ASPIRE para la Excelencia* y las áreas de reconocimiento de excelencia, así como para orientar a las facultades de medicina en la preparación de sus solicitudes.

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## Introduction

The aim of this report is to provide key information on the ASPIRE-to-Excellence Academy, its foundation, members, goals and activities. The foundation of the ASPIRE-to-Excellence Academy dates back to 2012, when the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) launched the ASPIRE-to-Excellence award programme, an initiative to “recognise international excellence in medical, dental and veterinary schools”.<sup>1,2</sup> The award was established due to the finding that international university rankings and accreditation procedures had so far failed to adequately recognise excellence in medical education.<sup>3</sup>

The ASPIRE-to-Excellence initiative aims to “promote and encourage” schools achieving excellence in the categories of assessment, student engagement, social accountability or faculty development, thereby increasing visibility and supporting the adoption of Best Practice models in other medical, dental or veterinary schools. Having started in 2013, the awarded institutions were announced and presented in an official ceremony at the AMEE annual conferences. Up to now, 17 institutions have

been awarded in three categories, some of them in more than one.<sup>1</sup> Table 1 lists the institutions which were awarded ASPIRE according to the category of excellence, together with the year their award was granted.

The ASPIRE award programme by AMEE has created great attention and interest concerning the dimensions and criteria for the recognition of excellence in medical education around the world. In response, several ASPIRE award winning institutions as well as members of the ASPIRE board increased the activities to disseminate information about the award and to help other schools to achieve excellence in those defined areas. These efforts included workshops to introduce scope and concept of the ASPIRE award,<sup>4,5</sup> discuss the definition of excellence in medical education and share Best Practice examples,<sup>6–8</sup> support other schools in preparing their submission,<sup>9,10</sup> and more. Information on the ASPIRE award was also published in medical journals<sup>2,3,11,12</sup> and via newsletters, the AMEE website (<http://www.amee.org>) and MedEdWorld internet portal (<http://www.mededworld.org>).

At the AMEE conference of 2015 in Glasgow, members of the ASPIRE board and the review panels for the

**Table 1** ASPIRE Schools and their award year as of 2015 as members of the ASPIRE to-Excellence Academy.

University	Country	Area of Excellence	Awarded Year
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine	USA	Student Assessment	2013
		Student Engagement	2013
		Social Accountability	2013
Aga Khan University	Pakistan	Student Assessment	2013
		Student Engagement	2013
University of Maribor	Slovenia	Student Engagement	2013
International Medical University	Malaysia	Student Engagement	2013
University of Western Australia, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences	Australia	Student Engagement	2013
University of Minho	Portugal	Student Engagement	2013
Northern Ontario School of Medicine	Canada	Social Accountability	2013
Hull York Medical School	UK	Social Accountability	2013
University of Leeds, School of Medicine	UK	Student Assessment	2014
		Student Engagement	2015
University of Southampton	UK	Student Engagement	2014
Memorial University of Newfoundland	Canada	Social Accountability	2014
University of New Mexico, School of Medicine	USA	Social Accountability	2014
Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin	Germany	Student Engagement	2015
UMC Utrecht	Netherlands	Student Engagement	2015
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry	Canada	Student Engagement	2015
Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University	Thailand	Student Engagement	2015
Uppsala University, School of Medicine	Sweden	Student Engagement	2015

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