



25 July 2012

## **AMC Accreditation Update: July 2012**

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) has recently completed an assessment of the **Australasian College of Sports Physicians**.

The Australasian College of Sports Physicians provides training in Australia and New Zealand in the medical specialty of sport and exercise medicine. In Australia, specialist training is managed by specialist medical colleges. To be granted a college fellowship, which leads to being an independent specialist, medical practitioners must successfully complete a college training program while they work as doctors-in-training in college-accredited sports medicine practices.

The AMC assesses specialist medical training programs against defined accreditation standards. It appoints an expert team which reviews a submission by the College, and interviews doctors in training, their supervisors and other stakeholders in the training program.

The College was first assessed by the AMC in 2008. The recent AMC review considered the College's progress since that assessment. The review comprised of a program of meetings with registrars and clinical training supervisors at the College's Annual Scientific Meeting; and meetings with College officers, committees and staff. Through this assessment, the AMC found that, overall, the College and the program leading to fellowship of the College meet the accreditation standards. The AMC confirmed accreditation of the education and training programs and continuing professional development programs of the College until 31 December 2014, subject to satisfactory progress reports to the AMC.

The College provides advanced training in sport and exercise medicine, which is undertaken almost exclusively in the private sector. The College has structured its training program to encompass general community need and preventative health through to supporting elite sport. Sport and exercise medicine covers a broad range of skills from the management of acute or chronic exercise related injuries, management of medical problems associated with sport and exercise, doping related issues and exercise prescription. Providing high level medical support to teams and elite athletes are also important and unique aspects of the speciality.

The four-year program consists of academic modules; mandatory participation in research; early management of severe trauma training; team and event coverage; and workplace-based assessments. The first three years of training are conducted in accredited training practices.

The College has made significant advances in establishing itself as an education provider and setting and promoting high standards of medical practice in the speciality of sport and exercise medicine. The AMC report on the accreditation acknowledges that the College has

made considerable progress in clarifying its purpose and in the translation of this purpose into standards of training and continuing professional development.

The Executive Summary of the 2011 accreditation report is available at the following link on the [AMC website](#). Key priorities for the College include:

- Further refinement of the College's mission statement, strategic plan and operational plan;
- Implementation of the revised curriculum, including the full suite of workplace-based assessments;
- On-going development and review of the curriculum and assessment process;
- Implementation of the supervisor's training program;
- Redevelopment of the College website and the enhancement of training resources available;
- Further development of the program of training accreditation visits;
- Introduction of an audit process for the continuing professional development program.

The AMC congratulates the College on its significant achievements in the development of its education, training, assessment and continuing professional development processes since 2008.

The AMC presented the accreditation decision to the Medical Board of Australia to enable the Board to make a decision on the approval of the program of study for registration purposes. The Medical Board of Australia details its decisions about accredited programs of study in Communiqués published on the [Board's website](#) following each meeting.

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