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

An ASPIRE award allows dental, medical and veterinary schools to be recognised internationally for their excellence in education.

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.
ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE

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 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.

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 initiative has been designed to recognise excellence, whereas accreditation standards by definition are written to identify gaps and deficiencies.

The ASPIRE programme recognises 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. The approach recognises that the characteristics of excellence will vary according to local contexts.

ADVANTAGES OF THE ASPIRE-TO-EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

The ASPIRE initiative offers a number of important benefits:

• The ASPIRE initiative creates an awareness of the importance of education and an understanding that de facto standards for best practice exist in the areas assessed
• ASPIRE supports a school in monitoring the quality of its education programme and the extent to which it conforms to best practice
• ASPIRE provides a school with the opportunity to demonstrate and promote their exceptional excellence in teaching and learning and enhances their reputation locally and internationally
• A school with an ASPIRE award is highlighted as progressive and responding to the education demands of the 21st century
• Schools recognised with an ASPIRE award are members of the ASPIRE Academy and belong to a network of schools where excellence in education has been demonstrated
• Through the ASPIRE Academy good practices are shared with other schools resulting hopefully in a more general improvement in education

AREAS ASSESSED

Schools can apply to be recognised as excellent in one or more of the following areas:

• Assessment of students
• Student engagement in the curriculum
• Social accountability of the school
• Faculty development
• Simulation

WHO CAN APPLY

Applications are accepted from medical, dental and veterinary schools and institutions. A school must be recognised by their respective regulatory authority.
ASPIRE-TO-EXCELLENCE AWARDS:

**Assessment of Students**

- Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, USA
- Aga Khan University Medical College, Pakistan
- University of Leeds, School of Medicine, UK
- University of California San Francisco, USA
- Royal Veterinary College, University of London, UK

**Faculty Development**

- University of California San Francisco, USA
- Royal Veterinary College, University of London, UK

**Student Engagement in the Curriculum and in the School**

- University of Leeds, School of Medicine, UK
- Charité - Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany
- Utrecht University, Faculty of Medicine, Netherlands
- Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, Canada
- School of Veterinary Medicine & Science, University of Nottingham, UK
- Uppsala University, School of Medicine, Sweden
- University of Southhampton, UK

**Social Accountability of the School**

- University of Southhampton, UK
- Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Canada
- Hull York Medical School, UK
- Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada
- University of New Mexico, USA
- Florida International University, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
- University of Leeds, School of Medicine, UK

- Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIMED) Network, Australia and New Zealand
- Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, USA
- Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, USA
Defining Excellence in Education:

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

- Assessment of students
- Student engagement in the curriculum
- Social accountability of the school
- Faculty development
- Simulation

**The Board Members are listed below. The panel members are listed on the ASPIRE website (www.aspire-to-excellence.org).**

**Board Members**

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<td>Khalid Bin Abdulraham</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>Duckson Ahn</td>
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<td>Emmanuel G Cassimatis</td>
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<td>Robert Duivier</td>
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<td>Matthew Gwee</td>
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<td>Pat Lilley</td>
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<td>Stefan Lindgren</td>
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<td>Nivritti Patil</td>
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<td>David Wilkinson</td>
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ASPIRE is an AMEE Initiative
www.amee.org

Scottish Charity No. SC 031618

**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 and information about the submission process can be found on the ASPIRE website 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 pamel are reviewed by the ASPIRE Board. Feedback is provided to the medical, dental or veterinary school about their submission.

**Announcement of the Awards**

The ASPIRE 2017 awards will be presented at the AMEE 2017 Conference, 26-30 August in Helsinki and reported in the press and on the ASPIRE website. The successful schools receive an ASPIRE trophy and certicate, and can record the award on their website and communications. Members of the school can wear an ASPIRE lapel pin representing the area in which excellence is recognised.

**Deadlines**

The closing date for submissions for 2017 is: 28th February 2017