

# Welcome to the International Journal of Medical Education

The IJME is a new on-line journal in the field which we hope will be attractive to our colleagues worldwide who have found it difficult to publish papers in the predominantly Western orientated journals and who may have English as a second language. We feel that due to the limited number of medical education journals, the limited amount of space available and the weaker English skills of some authors many worthwhile communications are declined. We hope that the IJME can remedy this situation and provide a useful forum where medical, dental and veterinary educators, both basic scientists and clinicians, from around the world can share educational ideas and developments.

The focus of the journal will be the areas of medical and clinical education in the health professions listed in the 'aims and scope' section. Nevertheless higher education is becoming globalised with students moving around the world to study their chosen courses and institutions of higher education are deliberately attracting overseas students. Therefore we need an evidence base to ensure that teaching, learning and assessment methods are suitable for this global audience. Therefore we are particularly interested in papers that have explored the impacts that specific cultural and multi-cultural environments have on teaching

and learning in medicine and the health sciences internationally. Medical education and practice is predominantly a multicultural and multiethnic activity where many medical schools and hospitals world-wide are populated by students and doctors from many different countries and cultures who study and work together. We wish to promote the exchange of ideas and experiences that derive from the different cultures in which the practice of medical education occurs throughout the world. This may contribute towards the internationalisation of medical education principles.

In order to further this global philosophy the journal will not charge for publication which we hope will encourage more authors to share their work with the international medical education community and their associated health professions. In addition we are currently negotiating to ensure that the journal is indexed on PubMed/Medline.

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