
May 9, 2013

Re: St. Mary's School of Medicine

To Whom It May Concern

I have been asked by the St. Mary's School of Medicine to issue this letter to confirm the status of the St. Mary's School of Medicine and its programs taught.

The St. Mary's School of Medicine on April 28, 1998 first received approval in principle (subject only to clearances) from the Cabinet of the Cook Islands (which is a Cabinet of Ministers comprising in part the Prime Minister, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Education and is the executive decision making body for the Cook Islands Government) to operate as an educational institution of higher learning. Thereafter, the St. Mary's School of Medicine commenced operations offering: (A) a 3 year 4 months Doctor of Medicine Degree program for those students who already have a Bachelors Degree or have already completed a minimum of 90 semester credit hours of undergraduate coursework including the completion of the required pre-medical sciences at an accredited institution; and (B) up to a 2 year nursing program for those students who have already completed at least an Associates Degree or 2 years of undergraduate coursework including the completion of the required pre-nursing sciences at an accredited institution.

The Cabinet of the Cook Islands allocated the authority of coordination for the establishment of the St. Mary's School of Medicine to the then Secretary of Health. The requirements were formed for the accreditation of the programs taught by the St. Mary's School of Medicine. The St. Mary's School of Medicine programs taught were then granted accreditation, approval, and recognition in the Cook Islands by the then Secretary of Health. The graduates of the St. Mary's School of Medicine are eligible to practice Medicine and Nursing in the Cook Islands subject to the requirements of the Cook Islands Medical Council and the Cook Islands Nursing Council.

The St. Mary's School of Medicine was listed in the World Health Organization Directory of Medical Schools 7th Edition publication at the request of the Cook Islands Ministry of Health.

The St. Mary's School of Medicine accreditation, approval, and recognition granted by the then Secretary of Health served as the accreditation, approval and recognition for the programs taught by the St. Mary's School of Medicine in the Cook Islands. It is my understanding that St. Mary's School of Medicine anticipates resuming new classes in 2014 and the St. Mary's School of Medicine will further make the necessary applications pursuant to the Education Act 2012.

If you have any concerns or questions requiring my attention please do contact me.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. Iro', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Elizabeth Iro
Secretary of Health