CaRMS
Navigating the journey back home
Sandra Banner

Sandra Banner, Executive Director and CEO, CaRMS

March 2015
Why are we here today?

• To provide insight into our role in your journey
• To provide clarification and answer questions
• To review the phases of the match with you
• To introduce you to CaRMS’ help resources
About CaRMS

• An electronic **application service** and **match** for entry into postgraduate medical training throughout Canada

• Created in 1969 by **medical students** to bring order, fairness and transparency to the residency matching process

• Has matched over **60,000** medical students to available residency training positions
CaRMS in the medical education community

- Postgraduate medical education (PGME)
- Undergraduate (UG) offices
- Medical Council of Canada (MCC)
- Provinces
- Individual programs
What isn’t CaRMS

• Creators of provincial or program requirements
• Decision makers
  – File reviewers
  – Interviews
  – Quota
  – Ranking
CaRMS by the numbers

- 900 documents translated for bilingual applications
- 1,500 applicant document errors were followed up by CaRMS
- 20,000 calls to the CaRMS help desk
- 30,000 reference letters, with 95% using the referee portal
What is the match?

An orderly way for:
• Applicants to decide where they wish to apply
• Programs to decide who they wish to train

Our match includes:
• Rank order lists
• Available positions
• Nobel-prize winning algorithm
What does the Match Algorithm do?

- Generates best-case match results, based on applicant ranking preferences
- Only moves down the applicant list when it is absolutely clear a rank will not result in a match
- Ensures a transparent and stable math-based process
Who are international medical graduates (IMGs)?

- Students who have graduated, or will graduate, from a medical school that is not accredited by the CACMS/LCME
- This term does not refer to citizenship or place of birth and is only an educational reference
- Graduates of osteopathy schools in the US are considered IMGs
Who are Canadians studying abroad (CSAs)?

• Canadians studying medicine outside of Canada or the US
• Canadian citizens who completed their undergraduate education in Canada and obtained their M.D from a pre-defined CSA school
• Final year medical students

In 2015 more than 1000 CSAs registered in the R-1 match!
Phases of the match year

- Application period
- File review
- Interviews
- Rank programs
- Match results
Key steps

- Participate in the match using CaRMS Online
- Accept your match contract
- Fill out your application
- Build your document portfolio
- Apply to programs on time
Electives in Canada

- Electives in Canadian medical schools require that core rotations in your selected discipline be completed before you apply.
- Apply at least a year in advance.
- It is possible to complete more than 12 weeks but not at the same school or location.
Components of your application:

- Personal information
- Language skills
- Achievements and interests
- Education
- Clinical electives
- Publications/presentations
- Work experience
Your document portfolio will include:

- Medical school transcript
- MSPR
- Citizenship documents
- Personal letters
- Reference letters
- Extra documents
## Positions by province

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>First iteration</th>
<th>Second iteration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newfoundland</td>
<td>Parallel</td>
<td>Competitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>Parallel</td>
<td>Competitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Québec</td>
<td>CMQ-assessed</td>
<td>Must have participated in the first iteration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>Parallel</td>
<td>Competitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>Parallel</td>
<td>Competitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>Parallel</td>
<td>Vacant positions open only to those who did not participate in the first iteration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>AIMG-assessed</td>
<td>AIMG-assessed**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Parallel</td>
<td>Competitive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parallel: IMGs apply to a separate stream of positions than Canadian graduates in one or more disciplines.
Competitive: IMGs apply to the same positions as Canadian graduates in all disciplines.
Mandatory Examinations

**MCC Evaluating Examination** – internationally computer delivered MCQ assessment of basic medical knowledge devoid of Canada health specific questions

**NAC OSCE** – centrally coordinated but delivered regionally in BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, QC and NS

- Objective Structured Clinical Examination to assess clinical performance including communication, data collection, clinical reasoning and therapeutics at the level of a graduating Canadian medical student.
International medical students can apply to take the MCCEE up to 20 months before their graduation date. This means that most international medical students will take this examination early in their final year of their medical school program.

Requires Dean’s letter to confirm graduation within 20 months.

Become a candidate of MCC via Physiciansapply.ca

- Online registration,
- payment,
- status of application,
- communications,
- results

Examination at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination Dates</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Scheduling for these examination dates</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$1,695</td>
<td>Scheduling for a particular examination date closes 120 hours before the examination date and time. To review the eligibility requirements, see Application and eligibility.</td>
<td>Results are available approx. 6 weeks after the last day of the examination session. See results for more information.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*generally Mondays through Fridays; some sites may run on Saturdays and/or Sundays

Application to the MCCEE is ongoing. While there are no deadlines for applying to the MCCEE, there are

Examination and service fees

Objectives overview
Important for first-time users of physiciansapply.ca: Do not create a new account if, in the past, you have applied for an MCC examination or submitted a medical credential for source verification, as you already have an account that contains important information. If you do not remember that you have an account, or do not have a username or password for that account, call the Service Desk directly for assistance.

Former MCC or PCRC Online users logging in for the first-time: Enter your existing username and password.

Candidates new to MCC services: Create a physiciansapply.ca account by clicking on Create an account.

Your account must first be initialized in order to use the "Forgot Username" and "Forgot Password" functions. If you require help initializing your account for the first time, please contact us.

* Username:

* Password:

Log In

Forgot your password?
Forgot your username?

New to MCC? Create an account

Please note that you will not be able to access your physiciansapply.ca account from 8 p.m., Eastern Time (ET), Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014 until 7 a.m., ET, Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014 due to system maintenance activities. However, our website, mcc.ca, will still be available during this time.

This unique portal provides medical students and physicians with a comprehensive account from which they can access a variety of services. physiciansapply.ca provides its users with access to all Medical Council of Canada (MCC) examinations services, the ability to send medical credentials for source verification as well as the ability to share these documents with registered stakeholders. Over time, it will also provide the ability to apply for medical registration within Canada.

This central portal was realized thanks to collaboration between the Medical Council of Canada, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada and its members. The project received funding from the Government of Canada’s Foreign Credential Recognition Program.

The portal replaces previous MCC systems including MCC-Online and PCRC-Online. physiciansapply.ca includes all of the functionality of these two systems and more.

For more information on the services offered through physiciansapply.ca, please visit Services.

This site is operated and maintained by the MCC (mcc.ca)
Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination

The Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCEE) is a four-hour exam offered in both English and French at more than 500 centers in 80 countries with students or U.S. osteopathic students in the final 20 months of their program or graduates or U.S. osteopathic graduates must take the MCCEE as a prerequisite Council of Canada Qualifying Examinations.

The MCCEE is a general assessment of the candidate’s basic medical knowledge. It is also designed to assess the skills and knowledge required at the time who is the first year of supervised postgraduate training.

The computer-based MCCEE consists of 180 multiple-choice questions, each with only one correct or best answer. The MCCEE questions cover the following topics: Maternal Health, Adult Health, Mental Health, and Population Health and Ethics. The examination also have a focus on general practice. You can view an example of an MCCEE question.

Examinations at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upcoming session dates</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Scheduling for these examination dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scheduling for a particular examination date closes 120 hours before the examination date and time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 6 – 19</td>
<td>$1,695</td>
<td>To review the eligibility requirements, see Application and eligibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 24 – March 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5 – 25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 8 – 28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 27 – Nov. 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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• Application to the MCCEE is ongoing. While there are no deadlines for applying to the MCCEE, there are

Examination and service fees

Objectives overview
What is Tested on the MCCEE?

- MCC Objectives
  
  Basis of all MCC assessment activities
  Organized using CanMEDS Roles
  - Medical Expert
  - Communicator
  - Collaborator
  - Professional
  - Manager
  - Scholar
  - Advocate
What is Tested on the MCCEE?

**Test Committee**
- Content is organized by:
  - Health Groups: Child health (pediatrics), Maternal Health (obstetrics), Adult Health (medicine, surgery, gynecology), Mental Health (psychiatry), Population Health and Ethics and Preventative / Community medicine
  - Function: Management, Data gathering, Data integration and synthesis

- Focuses on medical knowledge comparable to the minimal expected of a medical student graduating from a Canadian Faculty of Medicine

- Items avoid Canadian-specific material

**Examination**
- 180 questions (150 counting + 30 pilots)
You are a physician who stops at a serious motor vehicle collision. There is an elderly gentleman who is in severe respiratory distress from a flail chest, and hemorrhagic shock. You should provide medical care:

- under all circumstances whether or not you have medical skills in first aid.
- as an obligation of service to society whether or not the scene is safe.
- if you know that you will have liability coverage to protect against any future claims of medical negligence.
- only if the patient is competent and provides you consent to provide treatment.
- if the circumstances of providing treatment are within your skills and capability.

**Key Feature approach**

- Always a clinical scenario with critical information
- Takes the candidate to a decision point
- Choose the best response
National Assessment Collaboration Examination

Striving for the highest level of medical care for Canadians through excellence in evaluation of physicians

Latest news

07 November 2014

physiciansapply.ca system maintenance

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Read more

06 November 2014

NAC exam application for March 2015 is now open

Application for the March 2015 National Assessment Collaboration (NAC) exam is now open and you can apply through your physiciansapply.ca account. See schedule, application information, selecting a centre and withdrawal from the examination. The NAC exam can be taken at any of the examination sites and will be accepted by residency program directors regardless of [ ]

Read more

04 November 2014

Sept. 2014 NAC exam – SOR and SFR now available

Candidates can now view their Statement of Results (SOR) and Supplemental Feedback Report (SFR) through their account. For additional information regarding MCC examinations, please refer to the Examinations section of our website.

Read more

04 November 2014

MCCEE results – Sept. 2014 session

Candidates can now view their final result (e.g., pass, fail) and total score through their physiciansapply.ca account. Statement of Results and Supplemental Feedback Reports will be available online in approximately one week. For additional information regarding MCC examinations, please refer to the Examinations section of our website.

Read more
National Assessment Collaboration OSCE

• since 2011
• assesses readiness of IMGs for entry into Canadian residency programs
  o provides residency program directors with objective information on the skills, attitudes and knowledge level of applicants
• MCC and provincial IMG partners
• MCCEE is a prerequisite
• NAC required by all Canadian residency programs
Format of NAC examination

- 12 OSCE stations each with physician examiner and standardized patient in room.
- 11 minutes in length
  - 8-minute patient encounter,
  - in most stations, followed by 3 minutes of PE questions
  - in some stations, candidates have the full 11 minutes with SP
- The assessment of therapeutic knowledge is incorporated into the OSCE stations
What is being assessed?

- a candidate's clinical skills, knowledge, and behaviours at a level of a recent Canadian medical graduate
- Includes, but not limited to, problems in medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, psychiatry and surgery
- Includes communication, language and patient-candidate interaction (professionalism - respect, appropriate consent etc.)
- Physician Examiners use a 5-point rating scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNACCEPTABLE as compared to a recent graduate from a Canadian medical school</th>
<th>BORDERLINE UNACCEPTABLE as compared to a recent graduate from a Canadian medical school</th>
<th>BORDERLINE ACCEPTABLE as compared to a recent graduate from a Canadian medical school</th>
<th>ACCEPTABLE as compared to a recent graduate from a Canadian medical school</th>
<th>ABOVE the level expected of a recent graduate from a Canadian medical school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr. Smith, 66 years old, just had a fainting episode that was described by neighbours who witnessed it as a “seizure”. He is now in stable condition in the Emergency Department, but is somnolent and unable to give an interview.

You have been asked to interview his wife.

IN THE NEXT 10 MINUTES:
• PERFORM A FOCUSED HISTORY TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF HIS FAINTING EPISODE.

GIVE ONE (1) LABEL TO THE EXAMINER.
### Target Rating

**1.0 Elicits history of presenting problem**
- 1.1 Onset
- 1.2 Duration
- 1.3 Type of seizure
- 1.4 Symptoms prior to seizure / prodrome
- 1.5 Post-ictal state
- 1.6 Loss of bowel or urine control
- 1.7 Tongue biting

**2.0 Specifically asks about the following symptoms**
- 2.1 Fever OR chills OR sweats
- 2.2 Palpitations OR irregular heartbeat OR chest pain
- 2.3 Vomiting
- 2.4 Vision changes
- 2.5 Dizziness OR ataxia
- 2.6 Change in behavior
- 2.7 Headache

**Global Rating:**
- Did the candidate respond SATISFACTORY to this patient's needs and problem(s)?

| Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory |
|--------------|               |
| Borderline satisfactory | Borderline unsatisfactory |
| Good | Poor |
| Excellent | Inferior |

**If UNSATISFACTORY, please specify why:**
- Inadequate medical knowledge and / or provided misinformation
- Could not focus in on this patient's problem
- Demonstrated poor communication and / or interpersonal skills
- Actions taken may be imminently dangerous to this patient
- Other: ____________

### Target Rating

**3.0 Elicits past medical history**
- 3.1 Previous seizure or neurologic disorders
- 3.2 Medications
- 3.3 Changes in medication

**4.0 Elicits information about lifestyle**
- 4.1 Alcohol use
- 4.2 Use of street drugs
- 4.3 Smoking habits

**5.0 Informs the patient of an appropriate plan for investigations**
- 5.1 Computed tomography of the head
- 5.2 Electrocardiography
- 5.3 Serum glucose
- 5.4 Toxicology screen

**Did this candidate demonstrate a lapse in professional behavior?**
- Yes (if yes, why?)

**Briefly describe the behavior for any of the above reasons or any other observed lapse:** ____________

© MCC / CMC 2014 You must score BOTH pages. Score page 1 first, then TURN OVER.
## PATIENT / PHYSICIAN INTERACTION RATING SCALE

**EXAMINER:** Score the candidate on each of the items. Please choose the most appropriate bubble. [Please note that the descriptors for each item are intended as helpful examples to use as guides to the candidate’s performance. The descriptors are not intended to be all-inclusive definitions.] In addition, answer the global questions at the bottom of the page.

### 1. Questioning Skills [ONE bubble only]
- **Awkward, exclusive use of closed-ended or leading questions and jargon**
- **Somewhat awkward; inappropriate terms; minimal use of open-ended questions**
- **Borderline unsatisfactory; moderately at ease; appropriate language; uses different types of questions**
- **Borderline satisfactory; moderately at ease; appropriate language; uses different types of questions**
- **At ease; clear questions; appropriate use of open and closed-ended questions**
- **Confident; skillful questioning**

### 2. Organization of Interview [ONE bubble only]
- **Scattered, shot-gun approach**
- **Minimally organized**
- **Borderline unsatisfactory; somewhat logical flow**
- **Borderline satisfactory; logical flow**
- **Logical flow with sense of purpose**
- **Purposeful integrated handling of encounter**

### 3. Rapport with Person [ONE bubble only]
- **Condescending, offensive, judgmental**
- **Minimal courtesies only**
- **Borderline unsatisfactory**
- **Borderline satisfactory**
- **Polite and interested**
- **Warm, empathic**

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**Overall, do you feel that the candidate communicated / behaved with this patient in a satisfactory manner?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SATISFACTORY</th>
<th>UNSATISFACTORY</th>
<th>If UNSATISFACTORY, please specify why:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Borderline satisfactory</td>
<td>Borderline unsatisfactory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Inferior</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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© MCC / CMC 2014

You must score BOTH pages. Score page 1 first, then page 2.
Important!

AS of 2016 the MCC NAC OSCE will be a mandatory examination in every jurisdiction in the match. You MUST meet the basic criteria of the PROGRAMS you wish to apply to and the PROVINCE in which those programs are located.
Program descriptions

- Found on CaRMS.ca
- Information about the program
  - Required documents
  - Criteria for selection
  - What to expect in training
  - Links to additional websites
Match year timeline

Build your application

• CaRMS Online opens in September
• Application due in November

File review

• Begins mid-November
Match year timeline

**Interviews**

- Designated interview period: mid-January – early February

**Rank programs**

- Deadline is in mid-February
Match year timeline

Match results

• First week of March
Access your match results on **Match Day**

- Match Day is the first week of March
- Canadian match always precedes US NRMP match
- If you participate in both matches, your Canadian ranked programs have a higher preference than the US programs
Have questions? Need assistance? Let us help!
Tools and resources

- Program directory
- Communiqués
- Client services team
- CaRMS.ca
- Technical guides
- CaRMSalert.ca
- facebook.com/carms.ca
- Twitter - @CaRMS_CA
- youtube.ca/CaRMSvideo
Things to keep in mind

• Always contact the source
• Anyone can give advice, but you pay the price for incorrect myths
• When in doubt, contact the CaRMS help desk

1.877.227.6742
help@carms.ca
Data
Matched location and elective location

Of the CSAs that did at least one clinical elective and were matched:

**Same province**

- 54.6% did at least one elective in the same province as where they matched
- 45.4% did not do any elective in the same province as where they matched
Matched location and elective location

**Same university**
- 32.2% did at least one elective in the same university as where they matched
- 67.8% did not do any elective in the same university as where they matched

**Same discipline**
- 47.0% did at least one elective in the same discipline as where they matched
- 53.0% did not do any elective in the same discipline as where they matched
Estimated CMG graduates vs. IMG registrations (2006-2015)
Canadian graduates and available quota for R-1, 2002-2014
## IMGs in the match 2008-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of active applicants</th>
<th># who submitted a rank order list</th>
<th># matched</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2,888</td>
<td>2,318</td>
<td>449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2,962</td>
<td>2,329</td>
<td>499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2,330</td>
<td>1,818</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2,232</td>
<td>1,920</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,784</td>
<td>1,368</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1,742</td>
<td>1,387</td>
<td>392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1,581</td>
<td>1,299</td>
<td>353</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Average MCCEE scores (2008-2014) of matched IMG’s

- CSA 1st Iteration
- IMM 1st Iteration
- CSA 2nd Iteration
- IMM 2nd Iteration
Number of CSA registrants

- New CSAs
- Returning CSAs

Year:
- 2008
- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015

Registrants:
- 0
- 200
- 400
- 600
- 800
- 1000
- 1200
- 1400
Match results of Canadians studying abroad 2008-2014 R-1 match
Eligibility of Postgraduate Training in US

- ACGME accredited training!
- USMLE parts I II and III
- Specialty training must be assessed by Royal College
- For a full license to practice anywhere in Canada--Must have MCCQE pt 1 & II
- CFPC recognizes diploma of ABFM