



Executive Summary
Renewal of Licensure
Gulf Medical University
Ajman

April 8 - 11, 2019

An External Review Team (ERT) appointed by the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the Ministry of Education (MoE), United Arab Emirates (UAE) visited Gulf Medical University (GMU), Ajman, UAE on April 8-11, 2019, to evaluate the application for Renewal of Institutional Licensure.

GMU was established in 1998 (Decree No. 1, dated 28 January 1998 issued by His Highness Sheikh Humaid Bin Rashid Al-Nuaimi, Ruler of Ajman and Member of the Supreme Council, UAE). The institution is registered as a Limited Liability Company with the Ajman Municipality, Ajman and the Chamber of Commerce of the Federal Government of UAE and was formally licensed by the CAA in June 2004. The GMU received its current university status in July 2008 with the issue of a Decree by His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Bin Mubarak Al Nahayan, the Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research at that time. The institutional licensure was renewed in 2014.

The GMU has 6 major academic units: College of Medicine (COM), College of Dentistry (COD), College of Pharmacy (COP), College of Health Sciences (COHS), College of Nursing (CON), and College of Healthcare Management & Economics; and 3 newly established Institutes: Thumbay Research Institute of Precision Medicine, Institute of Population Health, and Institute of Health Workforce Development.

On a recommendation from the Board of Governors, the Board of Trustees (BoT) passed a resolution in April 2017 approving the establishment of the 'Gulf Medical University Academic Health System' which is planned to facilitate the integration, collaboration, and operational effectiveness of its component units. GMU colleges, institutes, programs, and the university clinical training sites are all under a single governing body.

The ERT commends GMU for the quality of the *Self-Study* and the presentation and organization of the supporting evidence base. The University has hosted a number of CAA reviews for program accreditations over the past two years and some in very recent months. As

a consequence of the CAA reports and responses from GMU to Requirements and Suggestions made on each occasion, there is a high level of compliance with the *Standards*.

The University has undergone, and continues to undergo, a diversification of study programs at all levels and across the healthcare related disciplines. This has been coupled with a heavy investment in the teaching and research facilities within the original buildings of the campus and has now been supplemented with the impressive Thumbay University Teaching Hospital, the Thumbay Dental Hospital and the Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Centre. Not only does this make a significant contribution to the advancement of healthcare provision in Ajman and the UAE as a whole but it provides a valuable resource for teaching and learning across the spectrum of GMU's study programs.

The developments and growth in the physical plant has been coupled with effective leadership and governance to steer the expansion and pursue the ambitious Strategic Plan. Additional faculty and professional staff have been appointed into teaching, research and clinical 'Tracks', and of particular note is the expanded research activity catalyzed through appointment of high-calibre researchers and by establishing collaborative linkages with international entities of good reputation.

The ERT found a spirit of enthusiasm and passion for teaching, research and learning across the GMU community. The development of the facilities is clearly a matter of pride for all concerned, but the faculty and students are also inspired by the innovative teaching and learning methodologies that have been introduced, namely the Virtual Patient Learning scheme, Inter-professional Education, Team-based Learning (TBL), Simulation-based Medical Education (SBME) and Early Clinical Exposure.

The ERT engaged in constructive dialogue with faculty, staff, students, and administrators through the period of the campus visit and many issues were clarified and verified through discussion and the provision of the appropriate evidence.

The ERT makes its recommendations and suggestions in a spirit of constructive engagement with the aim of ensuring that the *Standards for Licensure and Accreditation* are met, and to aid GMU in its desired objective to develop an institution that will achieve its stated mission and vision.