

**Faculty of Medicine
Suez Canal University**

Department of Medical Education

**Strategic Plan
2014 - 2019**

Introduction

The Faculty of Medicine, Suez Canal University (FOMSCU) was established in 1978. The College at present admits up to 150 students annually and the number of students currently registered in the undergraduate medical program is approximately 850 students.

The College follows a problem-based, student-centered curriculum. In this system of education, teaching and learning are carried out through an integrated organ-system based process with the faculty members acting as facilitators to small groups of students. This educational strategy, which is currently being adopted by an increasing number of Medical Colleges throughout the world, aims at equipping the medical graduate with the sound knowledge, appropriate attitudes and essential professional skills which are necessary for the effective and successful practice of medicine in the community, and for lifelong learning in the rapidly advancing field of medicine.

Strategic Analysis (SWOT analysis)

The SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threads) for establishing an Department of Medical Education at FOM-SCU is summarized in table (1) and details are explained below:

Strengths:

- **Leadership role and international recognition of FOM-SCU in medical education**

The FOM-SCU has demonstrated its leadership position, both in the Arabian Gulf region and internationally.

- a) FOM-SCU has been an active institutional member of the network of community-oriented institutions in the health professions since 1984.
- b) FOM-SCU has been designated as a WHO Collaborating Center for Educational Development in the EMRO Region.
- c) FOM-SCU has led the way in introducing the accreditation processes for Egyptian medical colleges and developing accreditation standards in line with international standards.
- d) The college conducted many faculty development workshops, training courses, and degree programs in health professions education in Egypt.

- **Faculty expertise**

At the FOM-SCU, faculty members are involved in medical education research. However, their research commitments are not limited to their areas of specialization and many of them are active in promoting medical education. Faculty development programs in medical education are a constant feature at the college. There is a core of medical education experts in the college who run different workshops every year for training faculty members in the various roles expected from a faculty in a PBL program: tutoring skills, problem design, and student assessment.

Opportunities:

- **The national need for medical education research:** In recent years, there has been emergence of many medical colleges in Egypt. There is a current trend of changing medical curricula towards outcome-based, integrated models. However, studies are required to examine the impact of these changes on the quality of learning, teaching and assessment and ultimately on patient care. For example, understanding how well graduates of the different curricula are prepared with core competencies required for medical practice is an important area of needed research.
- **Building collaborative research in Medical Education:** One of the challenges in conducting medical education research (in general) and in Egypt in particular is that most of the research is carried out within an applied, practical setting where the people involved do not have educational research as their first priority. Medical education department can help in building initiatives that enhance collaborative educational research covering core aspects of the educational process in the region. This opportunity brings richness for the cross-institutional medical education research because of the following reasons:
 - 1) The shared social and cultural values among the Egyptian medical students.
 - 2) The data from different Egyptian medical schools can help in benchmarking by comparing data from the different institutions at the level of input, process, output and outcome.
 - 3) The collaboration between the different Egyptian institutions will add more strength to the research projects with input from a wider critical mass of skilled medical education researchers in each institution where the research skills can be complemented.
 - 4) Sharing resources across the institutions can help to ensure an efficient and a cost-effective implementation of any collaborative projects.

5) With collaboration, the impact of the research can go beyond small numbers and therefore, the outcomes of the research project such as publications, reports and presentations can be generalizable.

- **Establishing an Egyptian Consortium for student assessment:** The Medical Education Department can take the initiative in developing a national consortium for sharing test items between Egyptian medical schools. This initiative can help in establishing a homogenous and manageable pool of quality questions and can be used for benchmarking Egyptian medical colleges and potentially can generate revenues for the FOM-SCU.

Weaknesses:

- The funding for medical education research has been very small compared with what is available in the basic and clinical sciences.
- The Information Technology (IT) support currently available at FOM-SCU is unlikely to fulfill the planned mission of the Chair of medical education.

Threats:

- The brain drain of faculty members in medical education by moving to Gulf Countries.
- The challenge of competition, especially in the area of staff training.

Table (1): SWOT Analysis for the Department of in Medical Education at FOM-SCU

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership role of FOM-SCU in medical education• Faculty expertise in medical education• WHO Collaborating Center for Educational Development• Innovative PBL curriculum for over 30 years	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of good IT support
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborative research projects with other Egyptian medical schools• Training courses, workshops and consultations in medical education• Egyptian Consortium for sharing test items	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The brain drain of faculty experts

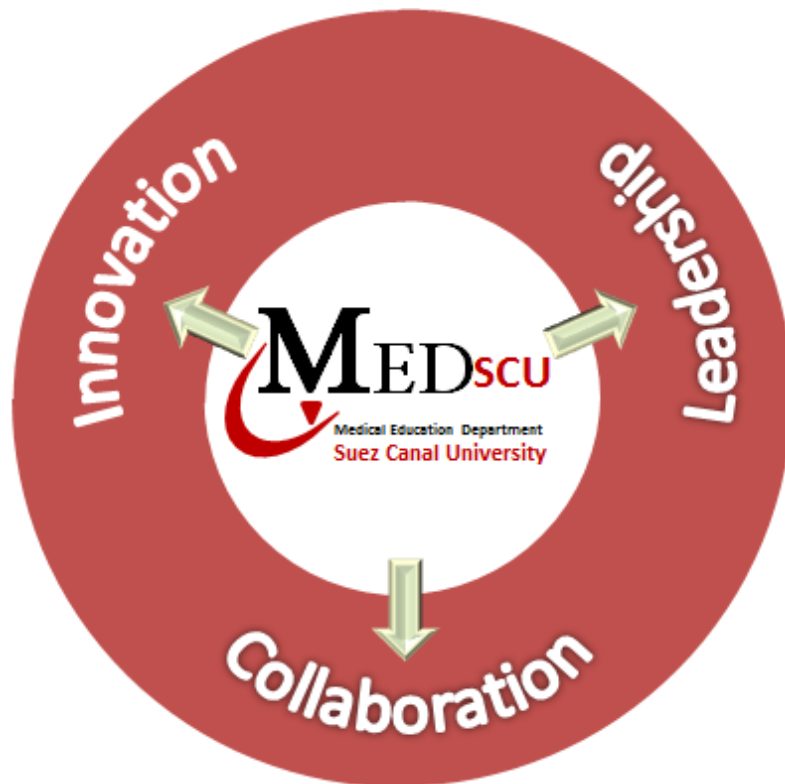
Vision and Mission

Vision:

We aspire to be a center of excellence in the field of medical education in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Mission

Our mission is to promote medical education in Egypt through collaboration, innovation, and leadership.



Strategic Goals

We support our mission and the fulfillment of this vision by striving toward the following goals:

1. Activate the role of the Department in improving the quality of medical education program at the FOM-SCU
2. Foster and facilitate excellence in medical education research locally and regionally.
3. Provide opportunities for partnership and collaboration in medical education with other national medical schools
4. Organize leading national events in medical education

Objectives & Key Strategies

Strategic objective	Key Strategies
Goal # 1: Activate the role of the Department in improving the quality of medical education program at the FOM-SCU	
Improve the quality of PBL problems	Design new PBL problems with better quality criteria
	Design tutor guides attached with each PBL problem
	Design mini-problems for application of knowledge along with each weekly PBL problem
	Conduct a series of workshops on PBL problem design and designing Tutor Guides
Improve the quality of student assessment	Establish a new database for student assessment
	Promote good student assessment practice, e.g. blueprinting, standard setting, test item analysis...etc
	Conduct a series of workshops on constructing test items and other areas of student assessment
Goal # 2: Foster excellence in medical education research nationally and regionally	
Promote greater awareness & involvement of medical education research among FOMSCU faculty	Design and deliver workshops for faculty in medical education research
	Keep faculty informed about updates in specific areas of medical education research
Promote publishing quality research in Medical Education	Establish a service for local review and advise for medical education research publications
	Encourage writing grants for education research
	Publish articles in high impact education journals
Goal # 3: Provide opportunities for partnership and collaboration in medical education with other national medical schools	
Promote inter-institutional collaborative research plans across Egyptian medical schools	Establish collaborative research projects with other Egyptian medical schools
	Publish collaborative medical education research
Establish an Egyptian	Establish and maintain a reliable and appropriate IT infrastructure for

consortium for test items	the consortium
	Market the membership subscription process for medical schools in the consortium
	Provide quality control of the test items in the consortium
Goal # 4: Organize leading national events in medical education	
Organize the first Egyptian medical education conference	Establish an organizing Committee for the conference
	Design a website for the conference
	Develop a conference program