NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2025/140

DECISION No. 140

June 11, 2025

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF

ARMENIAN MEDICAL INSTITUTE

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution:	Armenian Medical Institute (P/C)
Official Address:	14 a Podgoricai St., Yerevan, RA
Previous Accreditation decision and date:	**Institutional accreditation for a period of four years, Decision No. 43, May 5, 2021**

Guided by the Statute on State Accreditation of Tertiary Level Institutions and their Academic Programmes approved by the RA Government Decree No. 978-N as of June 30, 2011, the RA Government Decree No. 959-N as of June 30, 2011 on the Approval of Accreditation Criteria for Tertiary Education of RA, the Procedure on the Formation and Operation of the Accreditation Committee of the "National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance" foundation (hereinafter referred to as "ANQA") as well as by the Regulation on the Formation of ANQA's Expert Panel, ANQA's Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) discussed the issue on accreditation of institutional capacities of the Armenian Medical Institute (hereinafter referred to as "AMI", "TLI") in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on April 18, 2025.

The main phases of the accreditation process were carried out within the following periods:

Submission of application:	February 18, 2025
Submission of the revised self-evaluation:	March 20, 2025
Site visit by the expert panel:	April 28 – May 1, 2025
Submission of the expert panel report:	June 19, 2025

The external review of the AMI's institutional capacities was carried out by the following expert panel:

- **Hermine Grigoryan,** Candidate of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Associate Professor, dean at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Vanadzor State University named after H. Tumanyan, chair of the expert panel.
- **Nino Chichiveishvili,** an expert at the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (NCEQE), teacher at University Geomedi.
- **Rolf Heusser**, chairman of the Scientific Board of the German accreditation agency "AHPGS", coordinator of the EHCL Programme, University of Zurich, teacher at the ETH Zürich and University of Zurich.
- **Naira Hunanyan**, Candidate of Biological Sciences, senior researcher at the L. A. Orbeli Institute of Physiology of the NAS RA, teacher at the Mkhitar Gosh Armenian-Russian International University.
- **Astghik Hambardzumyan,** student at the Yerevan State University.

The evaluation was conducted according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree No. 959-N as of June 30, 2011. Evaluation against accreditation criteria:

Evaluation	Conclusion
1. Mission and Purpose	Satisfactory
2. Governance and Administration	Unsatisfactory
3. Academic Programmes	Satisfactory
4. Students	Satisfactory
5. Faculty and Staff	Satisfactory
6. Research and Development	Satisfactory
7. Infrastructure and Resources	Satisfactory
8. Societal Responsibility	Satisfactory
9. External Relations and Internationalization	Unsatisfactory
10. Internal Quality Assurance System	Satisfactory

Having examined the institution's self-evaluation of institutional capacities and comments on the preliminary version of the expert panel report, the expert panel report, the preliminary follow-up plan; having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation, which were made by the two members selected by the Chair of the Accreditation Committee and were formed as a result of the meetings with the expert panel members and the institution's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

1. The institution ensures the credible award of qualifications.

In recent years, the AMI has undertaken reforms in its academic programmes (APs), including the revision of learning outcomes and curricula, modernisation of assessment methods and the strengthening of the integration of theoretical and practical components. The gradual introduction of integrated approaches to teaching and learning represents a positive development. The sustainable implementation of these reforms is possible only with appropriately qualified academic staff and their continuous professional development. The recruitment of academic staff primarily focuses on experienced doctors. Certain incentive mechanisms are in place. Meanwhile, a more systematic and planned approach to trainings and practice sharing is needed, particularly to ensure the effective application of active teaching methods. An appropriate physical-technical learning environment is also an essential prerequisite for the AP quality. The AMI takes positive steps towards the establishment of simulation laboratories. It is recommended that AMI complete the establishment of the simulation laboratories intended for the APs "General Medicine" and "Dentistry" and ensure their full operation to support the development and assessment of students' practical skills. Particular emphasis should be placed on the introduction of the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) format as a credible method for the assessment of practical skills.

Meanwhile, it is advisable to expand the library's collection with up-to-date professional literature and establish cooperation with international research libraries and electronic databases to ensure broader access to international scientific resources for students and teachers.

The planned developments should also be complemented by initiatives to establish the institution's own research laboratories. In this regard, it is important to explore opportunities for the attraction of alternative funding sources, ensuring the sustainable development of resources and the provision of a high-quality educational environment.

2. Strategic management and the quality assurance system are still in the development stage. There are enhancement areas to ensure results-based governance.

The AMI's current governance model, characterised by the annual rotation of the Rector's position among its four founders, poses challenges to the continuity of strategic processes, consistency in decision-making approaches and effectiveness of overall oversight. Although the founders hold regular meetings, these discussions, in the absence of effective monitoring and oversight mechanisms, do not ensure continuity, transparency and accountability in institutional governance. To enhance governance effectiveness, it is necessary to strengthen institutional governance mechanisms through the clear definition of roles and responsibilities of governing bodies and introduction of systems for continuous monitoring and results-based accountability. In recent years, the institution has made progress in the development of its internal quality assurance (IQA) system. Data-driven mechanisms have been introduced, particularly to support the AP enhancement. In this regard, it is essential to ensure that the internal quality assurance system systematically evaluates all areas of institutional activity, including the governance system. The IQA policy can serve as a foundation for the evaluation and enhancement of the AMI's governance system. It is essential that the QA system incorporate regular analyses of governance effectiveness to ensure the institution's comprehensive development.

3. Internationalisation and research/creative activities do not yet contribute to institutional development.

Though the AMI has undertaken certain initiatives to expand cooperation and promote scientific research activities, the current levels of internationalisation and research development remain insufficient to fully realise the institution's potential. Internationalisation approached with a certain degree of scepticism at the governance level, resulting in the absence of a clear internationalisation strategy. There are no joint educational or research projects with other HEIs. AMI does not participate in international mobility programmes. Opportunities for students and teachers to gain

educational or research practice abroad are almost non-existent. Similar challenges are observed in scientific-research activities. Despite the incentive mechanisms and certain quality outputs in the form of textbooks and methodological manuals, the AMI still lacks a research strategy, a clearly defined research profile, a dedicated research budget and adequate research infrastructure. It is recommended that AMI develop internationalisation and research strategies and integrate them into its overall institutional development plan, while creating opportunities for academic mobility, language proficiency development, joint projects and research collaboration.

4. The follow-up plan should give urgent solution to the issues identified in Points *1, 2* and *3*, ensuring relevant mechanisms for the prevention and management of potential risks.

Taking into consideration the above mentioned, as a result of an open voting, the Accreditation Committee:

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to the Armenian Medical Institute for 4 /four/ years.**
2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit a revised follow-up plan based on the expert panel report and respective time schedule to ANQA within two months. The plan and schedule should be approved by the institution's Board of Trustees.
3. In accordance with the requirements set by point 12 of the Statute on State Accreditation of Tertiary Level Institutions and their Academic Programmes, every 2 /two/ years to submit a written report to the ANQA on the results of carried out activities by ensuring the evaluation of enhancement of the TLI's activity, innovations and achievements. The evaluation results should be discussed at the institution's Board of Trustees.
4. Organise a self-audit of all APs prior to the next accreditation.
5. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of the effectiveness of the TLI's activities in accordance with the KPIs.

Chair of the Accreditation Committee: **V. Gabrielyan**

March 11, 2025

Yerevan