

February 4, 1964

Dr. Kenneth B. Babcock, Director  
Joint Commission of Accreditation of Hospitals  
200 E. Ohio Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Dr. Babcock:

I am writing to inquire as to the Commission's recommendations regarding ECFMG certification for physicians who are appointed in the research laboratories of this institution.

The Missouri Institute of Psychiatry is a research and training center of the Division of Mental Diseases of the State of Missouri, situated in the St. Louis State Hospital, which is an accredited institution. The clinical facilities of the Institute are the responsibility of the Superintendent and the Institute is, thus, an integral part of the hospital. The Institute is developing laboratories in neurophysiology and pharmacology and we are now entertaining the applications of two physicians desirous of working in a laboratory setting. These candidates do not have clinical experience and their M. D. represents an advanced degree in basic science.

It is our understanding that the Commission looks with disfavor on unlicensed foreign medical graduates engaged in patient care activities. We would appreciate a clarification, either in terms of a copy of the available standards of the Commission, or a letter response regarding the following specific inquiry.

Does the appointment of a foreign medical graduate in a research laboratory impair the accreditation of the institution, when such appointment carries no clinical responsibility for patient care? (In other words, is satisfactory completion of the ECFMG examination to be required for basic scientists with an M. D. degree, who are appointed in laboratory positions?)

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M. D.  
Director

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cc: Drs. George Ulett and Ray Knowles