

AMCOA

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL COUNCILS OF AFRICA



RESPONSIVE REGULATION
FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES
TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

28TH
**ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

ACCRA, GHANA

23 – 27 AUGUST 2026

DEDICATED TO PROTECTING THE PUBLIC AND ADVANCING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN AFRICA

AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE



Adjunct Professor Martin Fletcher
martin.fletcher@rmit.edu.au





What is changing for medical regulation internationally?

AMCOA

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL COUNCILS OF AFRICA



Human resources for health

4

- An expectation that regulators will play an active role in addressing workforce shortages and maldistribution
 - Balancing public protection with enabling growth
- Embracing workforce innovations
 - New types of roles
 - Increased emphasis on generalist roles
 - Other health professions working to top of their scope of practise or expanding their scope
 - Team based health care
- Increased applications of technology – telehealth, AI
- Global mobility – health practitioners and patients

Other important trends

5

Changing nature of what it means to be a professional

- Changed community expectations of their health practitioners
- Expectation of clear mechanisms for patients to raise concerns about their health care
- Citizen voice in regulatory governance, policy and decision making

Changing health needs and regulatory stewardship

- Ageing population
- Rise of NCDs
- Health emergencies
- Widening contexts of care – health, social care and community care



Regulation should be like Bamboo not Steel

7

- How is regulation governed?
- Which occupations are included?
- Who is responsible for licensing/registration?
- How are training and education linked to regulation?
- How is quality maintained?
- Are the public and patients involved?
- How should regulation contribute to growth and innovation in health care?

Harry Cayton

Expanding the tools of regulation

Standards

Registers/
Licensing

Discipline

Education

Alignment to health
system goals

Greater public involvement
in regulation

Processes for assuring
ongoing competence and
dealing with ethical breaches



Cross professional
approaches

Use of data and evidence
for workforce policy and
governance

Clear focus on public
interest

The enduring challenge: importance of trust

9



“A final challenge ...three things endure in regulation: proportionality, transparency and trust and the greatest of these is trust.”

Professor Anna van Der Gaag University of Surrey, England