

2018 Program Directors Workshop

International Medical Graduates (IMG) Trainees in Neurology

Faculty:

Erica A. Schuyler, MD, University of Connecticut School of Medicine
Zachary London, MD, University of Michigan Hospitals
Invited speaker: Ms. Eleanor Fitzpatrick, ECFMG

Panel of IMG trainees: Subhendu Rath, MD, University of Connecticut School of Medicine
Proleta Datta, MD, PhD, University of California San Francisco
Ehtesham Khalid, MD, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Course Description:

The 2018 Program Director's workshop will focus on the International Medical Graduate (IMG) trainee. The first part of this workshop will provide an overview of current and future contributions of IMGs to the neurology workforce as well as discuss how to approach the selection process of IMGs and what PDs need to know about complying with immigration laws and visas. The second part of the workshop will focus on the IMG resident experience. A panel of internationally trained neurology trainees and faculty will share their experiences with preparing for US residency, orientation to the US healthcare system, discrimination in the workplace, and other relevant topics to PDs. Group discussion will be focused on how neurology PDs can promote a training environment that will optimize the wellness and success of our IMG residents.

Learning Objectives:

1. Provide an overview of current and potential future contributions of IMGs to the neurology workforce.
2. Understand how to approach the selection process of IMGs as well as comply with immigration laws and visas.
3. Engage in a productive discussion about the current experiences and challenges that IMGs face with the goal of improving IMG resident wellness and success.

Summary:

Dr. Erica Schuyler spent the first part of the session discussing the role of IMG trainees in both the resident and physician workforce. She discussed ERAS and NRMP data spanning over the past 10 years looking at trends in applications and match rate for non-US IMGs as well as data from the UConn program. She also presented AAMC workforce data about the composition of US vs. IMG trained physicians in the workforce and compared to other specialties and the geographic composition of IMG trained physicians practicing in the US. She also discussed data collected from residency directors and DIOs from the 2017 match regarding concerns about the Executive Orders regarding travel restrictions from certain countries due to the timing and uncertainty about immigration restrictions.

Next, Ms. Eleanor Fitzpatrick provided a detailed description of the process by which an internationally trained physician prepares for and applies to train for residency training in the US. This included a discussion of all of the requirements for obtaining ECFMG certification prior to applying for the match. She also discussed the visa process that IMG trainees undergo, focusing

specifically on the details of the J-1 exchange visa which is sponsored by ECFMG and is the most common type of visa used by IMG physicians who undergo US residency training. Ms. Fitzpatrick also highlighted important things for residency directors to know about residents who are on a J-1 visa, including the timeline, international travel during residency, and what a program needs to report to the ECFMG regarding status of their trainees.

Dr. Schuyler then moderated the panel discussion in which three current IMG trainees, one resident and two fellows. The panelists were invited to each take 5 minutes to share their personal experiences with the process of obtaining ECFMG certification, obtaining US experience which helped them to match successfully, and barriers or unexpected occurrence in their transition to training in the US. They also fielded some questions from the audience.

Dr. London then moderated a small group discussion section in which participants shared their personal experiences or experiences that have come up in their programs. This discussion was focused on how can programs make their orientation and experiences welcoming to international trainees.

In the last few minutes of the session, Dr. Schuyler discussed career planning for IMG residents, focusing on the options for trainees with a J-1 visa to remain in the US. She discussed the Conrad 30 waiver program and an overview of the process and circumstances by which a trainee can apply for a waiver.

Evaluations:

The course evaluation was completed by 22 of the attendees. The majority of the respondents were residency directors with either 0-3 years or 3-6 years in their current position.

Overall course rating: 41% gave the course an overall rating of outstanding, 50% above satisfactory, and 9% satisfactory.

All respondents reported that they either strongly agree or agree that the material was presented effectively, is relevant to changes that they face, and is likely to enable them to solve some of the challenges that they face.

All three speakers were rated with an average between 4.36-4.50 out of 5. Panelists, all three of whom were current trainees, were given average ratings between 3.95-4.24.

Comments

Overall program:

It really increased my knowledge about IMGs. Great session.

Really enjoyed learning more about the ECFMG and visa process. I wish we had more time for questions and answers with the ECFMG representative.

Great for more information sessions for the future and a great topic.

What was most useful:

IMG visa

The nuts and bolts of the visa process

It was helpful to learn about the ECFMG and understand a bit more about the unique challenges IMGs face and also some ideas on how to counsel them in future career decisions.

discussions with my peers was very helpful

The experience of the IMG resident and fellow panelists.

The breakout session was the most helpful. We really could have used more time for this and the report out.

Outlining the definitions and requirements for visas.

Learning about different visa types, what a waiver is, things to think about for incoming IMGs

overview of ECFMG

ECFMG review of the process for IMG and different visa types.

Ms Fitzpatrick

ECFMG data and navigation

learning about different visa issues

ECFMG talk

talking about topics at the tables

Listening to attendees and residents/fellows experiences

Ms. Fitzpatrick's perspective from ECFMG

What was least useful:

Some of the personal accounts were less informative.

The presentation by Ms. Fitzpatrick was a bit too detailed.

All perspectives were helpful.

long powerpoint presentations

Suggested topics for future courses:

explanation, suitability and ease of getting of J, J, O visa for IMG

similar diversity of topics

I'd like to see a session on how programs are incorporating teleneurology.

Mentorship Programs for Residents

How to Promote Research

Types of educational programs for residents

suggestion about the type of the type of visa based on the countries/ candidates

Topics on program directors issues such as: dealing with the difficult faculty member,

Remediation/Probation and beyond, mentoring the trainee pearls

Resident driven innovations- how to encourage and nurture resident creativity

Any Additional Comments:

I felt this was a very useful course overall.

Very nice venue that should be kept. Would appreciate more sharing ideas and experiences.