



EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES

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New ECFMG® Program Provides Support and Service to International Medical Graduates

PHILADELPHIA, PA — The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) is pleased to announce the launch of the ECFMG Certificate Holders Office (ECHO), a new program that provides support and service to ECFMG-certified physicians, and physicians about to be certified, as they plan their careers. ECHO expands on the resources offered by ECFMG's former Acculturation Program.

International medical graduates (IMGs)—physicians who received their medical degrees outside the United States and Canada—make up more than one-quarter of the U.S. physician workforce. Through its program of certification, ECFMG evaluates whether these physicians are ready to enter U.S. graduate medical education (GME) programs, where they receive medical specialty training and provide supervised patient care.

ECHO provides free resources that allow IMGs to be better prepared and organized in making important career decisions. These resources will provide guidance on important milestones for entering the U.S. health care system, such as applying to U.S. GME programs, obtaining a U.S. medical license, and medical specialty certification. ECHO will also strive to provide information on non-clinical careers for certified IMGs who do not enter U.S. GME.

In addition to allowing IMGs to access ECFMG's expertise, ECHO enables IMGs to connect with other experts and organizations, and with each other, to learn, share, and network. ECHO's feedback mechanisms offer new ways for IMGs to communicate with ECFMG on an ongoing basis, establishing a dialogue between ECFMG and the physicians it certifies.

As ECFMG's President and Chief Executive Officer, Emmanuel G. Cassimatis, M.D., observes, "Providing these additional services to the physicians we certify enhances their professional development. ECHO also strengthens the relationship between ECFMG and IMGs, extending our connection beyond ECFMG Certification and ensuring opportunities

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for IMGs to tell us what they need and how we can better meet these needs.”

For more information, visit the ECHO section of the ECFMG website at www.ecfmg.org/echo, where you can access ECHO’s resources, which are updated monthly, and subscribe to ECHO’s free monthly e-newsletter.

About ECFMG

ECFMG is a world leader in promoting quality health care—serving physicians, members of the medical education and regulatory communities, health care consumers, and those researching issues in medical education and health workforce planning. ECFMG evaluates whether IMGs are ready to enter U.S. GME programs and offers a variety of other programs for IMGs and the entities worldwide that educate, train, register/license, and employ them.

Established in 1956, ECFMG is a private, nonprofit organization based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with more than 800 full- and part-time employees.

ECFMG’s organizational members are the American Board of Medical Specialties; American Medical Association; Association of American Medical Colleges; Association for Hospital Medical Education; Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc.; and the National Medical Association.

For more information, visit the ECFMG website at www.ecfmg.org.

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