

About this Newsletter

This monthly newsletter is coordinated and published by ISIS. Our main goal is to keep International Medical Graduates informed about new programs, events, and initiatives related to the medical field and healthcare system in Nova Scotia.

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Accreditors Take Dalhousie Medical School Off Probation

Dalhousie's undergraduate medical program is off probation and fully accredited for the next six to eight years, the normal accreditation cycle.

The American-based Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) notified Dalhousie Medical School of its intent to assign "accreditation on probation" to its undergraduate program in 2009 following a routine review.

"Our probation served as a wake up call to many. The medical school not only brings huge economic benefits to the region, it plays a key role in health care across the Maritimes," said Dr. Tom Marrie, the medical school's dean. "The fact that the Maritimes' medical school is off probation should make us all express a sigh of relief."

Throughout the probationary period, Dalhousie's MD program remained fully accredited. Issues identified by a joint review committee of LCME and our Canadian accrediting body, the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical



Schools, related mainly to curriculum management, monitoring, and evaluation.

Accreditors have acknowledged that significant progress has been made in the cited areas, and will return to Dalhousie in a year's time to complete its evaluation; in some instances, not enough time has passed to fully evaluate successful implementation of the new measures.

CaRMS Results of the 2011 Match

The CaRMS (Canadian Residency Matching Service) has released the results of the 2011 match for Canadian trained and International Medical School Graduates in both first and second iteration.

Among the 4531 applicants, 2909 candidates were successfully matched through CaRMS and will begin their post-graduate training on July 1, 2011. A total of 2507 Canadian medical graduates will be starting residency training in July, with 84 percent of them accepted into one of their top three choices of residency programs.

The story for foreign trained physicians trying to get medical residency positions in Canada has not; however, improved this year. A ranking of the 1920 IMG's (International Medical School Graduates) who applied in the



2011 CaRMS match shows that 380 were matched in total.

This means 19 percent of the internationally trained doctors who applied were matched. It should be mentioned that the IMG category contains both "Immigrant IMGs" and "Canadian Born IMGs" who have different potential chances in being successful.

The detailed report on the 2011 CaRMS match can be reviewed at: http://www.carms.ca/eng/operations_R1reports_11_e.shtml

Spring Primary Care Updates Conference, Halifax

Primary Care UPDATES Series are proven two-day medical education conferences held in 10 cities across the country twice each year. Each UPDATES meeting offers a core curriculum based on important disease states. The 2011 spring event featured all new learning programs ranging from COPD to diabetes and pain to the latest information about depression treatment.

Twenty-two IMGs from Nova Scotia attended the two full days of quality accredited CME

programs on June 17th and 18th. The program was delivered by outstanding regional speakers.

The next conference will be held on November 4th and 5th at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax.

You can find further information at: <http://www.myprimarycare.ca/updates-spring/halifax/halifax.html>

Orientation to the Canadian Health Care System for Internationally Educated Health Care Professionals

Developed by the Registered Nurses Professional Development Centre, "Orientation to the Canadian Health Care System for Internationally Educated Health Care Professionals" program provides IEHPs with an orientation to both the Canadian and Nova Scotia Health Care system. The goal is to provide key concepts and principles of professional practice needed to work as health care professionals in Nova Scotia.

- Cultural Competence
- The Canadian/NS Health Care System

- Collaborative/Patient Centered Care
- Professionalism/Reflective Practice
- Ethical and Legal Issues in Health Care
- Safety in Health Care

For more information contact: Sheila Paris
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To get information about the 2011 fall orientation please check the flyer:

[Program Flyer and Application Form](#)

Interprofessional Facilitator Development Program

In Nova Scotia, a dedicated team of health professionals work hard to provide the best treatment and care possible to patients with cancer and their families. But with over 200 kinds of cancer, increasingly complex care, many choices of treatments and new research findings, it is a challenge for the health professionals to keep current.

Cancer Care Nova Scotia is facing this challenge head on by training cancer health professionals to provide cancer education to their peers in an interprofessional setting. This team approach to learning and working is resulting in improved interprofessional collaborative patient-centered care.

The facilitators receive training on interprofessional education, collaborative patient-centered practice, adult education theory, facilitation skills and conflict management. They also have opportunities to practice facilitating a portion of an Interprofessional Core Curriculum (ICC) module and to obtain feedback from their peers.

If you have any question please contact:

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For further information please go to:

www.cancercare.ns.ca/en/home/healthprofessionals/education/excellence/interprofessionalfacilitatordevelopment.aspx

Standing Committee On Public Accounts

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met with representatives from ISIS, the Department of Health, and the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Nova Scotia (CPSNS) on Wednesday, June 8 to discuss the recruiting of International Medical Graduates.

The Public Accounts Committee was established for the purpose of reviewing public accounts, the annual report or other reports of the Auditor General and any other financial matters respecting the public funds of the Province.



[Click here to watch the proceeding on the Legislative TV website.](#)

Tanning Bed Use Restricted in Nova Scotia

The province is protecting young people from harmful UV ray exposure with legislation that came into effect on May 31st.

During the fall months, inspectors will be visiting tanning salons across Nova Scotia to ensure they are in compliance with the new rules. In addition, a 1-800 number will be established where people can report wrongdoing.

Tanning bed owners can be fined up to a maximum of \$10,000 and have their business closed for up to two years for repeated violations of the act.

The World Health Organization now classifies UV rays as a known carcinogen. Studies have shown



that indoor tanning before the age of 35 raises the risk of melanoma by 75 per cent. The legislation bans people under 19 years of age, from being exposed to the beds' U-V rays. You can find the entire article at: www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20110531007

Expanded Overseas Foreign Credential Recognition Services

Dr. Joseph Kurian was instrumental in forming the Canadian Association of Physicians of Indian Heritage in 2004 and has worked to remedy the situation foreign-trained physicians find themselves in.

Newcomers report foreign credential recognition as one of their top challenges once they immigrate to Canada. Now, more skilled immigrants to Canada will be able to access the help needed to jump-start their credential recognition process through expanded overseas orientation services.

The Canadian Immigration Integration Project (CIIP), run by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC), will receive additional funding of \$15 million to expand services in India, China and the Philippines. A new office will also open in London, England, in the fall of 2011, which will also serve various Nordic and Arab states according to demand. The CIIP began offering orientation services in the Philippines, China and India on a pilot basis in early 2007. The existing sites, along with the London office, will offer access to more than 70 percent of the selected federal skilled workers around the world. These locations will also offer access to approximately 44 percent of selected provincial



nominees around the world.

The free sessions provide labour market information, individual advice and planning, and referrals to a wide range of services available in Canada. The orientation sessions will be complemented by occupation and sector-specific fact sheets, online tools and resources to help immigrants begin their licensure and accreditation process overseas.

The Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications is a landmark agreement to speed up foreign credential recognition for newcomers to Canada.

For further information you can go to:

[www.canadaboundimmigrant.com/
breakingnews/article.php?id=63](http://www.canadaboundimmigrant.com/breakingnews/article.php?id=63)

We are looking for recommendations for new content and revisions to the current content. Please email your feedback to imgbridging@isisns.ca or call Sepideh Behroozan, IMG Bridging Program Coordinator, at (902)406-8650.