

AIMGA NEWSLETTER

AIMGA IS CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Our offices are closed for the holidays effective December 23rd. We reopen on Monday, January 4th.

Edition 2
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Happy Holidays!

On behalf of all of us at AIMGA, we wish you a joyous holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



Deidre Lake



Teresa Lau



Shola Adelakun



Basma Tariq
Sheikh



Katherine
Anderson



Nashit
Chowdhury



Nuruddin Lakhani



Tisha Raj



Monica Spencer





Evaluation

It is end of the year so we'll be reaching out to all of our members who have participated in programming to get your feedback for our upcoming report. We'll be sending you a link to a survey. Please do fill out. Your feedback matters.

AIMGA's COVID Response / Health and Wellness Team

AIMGA's COVID Response / Health and Wellness Team are still educating newcomer communities in first languages around COVID-19. We have a partnership with Alberta Health Services and are part of the East Zone collaborative. Link: <https://www.centrefornewcomers.ca/eastzone>
We've also started podcasts in first languages. Help spread our resources and/or take a look: <https://aimga.ca/covid-19/>

Alternative Career Pathways for IMGs

AIMGA has identified the importance of alternative career pathways (ACPs) for IMGs and has been working intensely in this area in collaboration with our members and other IMG service providers, potential employers, academics, federal and provincial government stakeholders including Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and Government of Alberta. ACPs are important in many ways for IMGs - including gaining Canadian work experience and enriching their profile, understanding and preparing themselves for work ethics, culture, and environment in Canada, and to understand how Canadian healthcare system works. It also helps to gain professional identity and a rewarding career in case of inability to pursue the highly competitive and lengthy physician licensing pathway.

AIMGA is working to facilitate the understanding and the pursuit of alternative career pathways for the IMGs in many ways. Through the Career Transition Program (CTP) AIMGA trains the participants for the development of their resume/ CV, identify transferable skills, identify potential ACP that best suits their skills and provide directions on how to obtain them. Many of the participants of this program have been able to obtain an alternative job that utilizes their knowledge and skills and enables them to grow.

From the CTP experience and from the preliminary research, AIMGA recognizes the need for further research and resources for helping IMGs in the pursuit of ACPs. Therefore, AIMGA started to conduct research on different aspects of ACPs including creating a database of potential alternative careers for IMGs and the identification of transferable skills and specific job skills that IMGs possess, lack, and have aptitude for. AIMGA is also identifying the factors that IMGs consider to pursue an ACP and will match those with the requirements and outcomes of the identified potential ACPs. AIMGA has already conducted a Canada-wide survey and focus group discussions in collaboration with University of Calgary to identify the barriers and facilitators IMGs face in the pursuit of ACP, and the factors they consider in pursuing an ACP.

Career Transition Program

Our next Career Transition Program starts in January. We received over 50 applications for the 28 seats funded by IRCC.



NAC OSCE Preparation Courses

Preparing for the NAC OSCE exam requires dedicated practice as well as candid feedback from preceptors and medical educators. In the summer months, AIMGA provided NAC OSCE study groups with R2 residents and physician educators in practice. AIMGA also provided an online mock NAC OSCE for 63 of our members. A range of preceptors, including IMGs in practice and faculty from the Universities of Calgary and Alberta contributed their expertise to provide guidance to candidates about the time management, organization, and clinical considerations for each case. We are thrilled to offer these unique online opportunities, and we are thankful for the contributions of all those involved who tirelessly support our members' development to ensure test readiness.

Upcoming NAC OSCE Study Groups

Our next NAC OSCE study group starts in January for those registered for the exam in March.

CaRMS Preparation

We've been busy providing supports for those applying to CaRMS between our workshops, CaRMS Preparation Program, and one-on-one consultations. We'll continue to support you in January and for those called for an interview, we'll offer a mock interview session via Zoom.

AIMGA

Our services are no longer just for those in Alberta. Since we've moved programs and services online, we welcome IMGs from other provinces.

Symposium

We had 250+ people participate in our online symposium. We are grateful for all those who helped make it a success. A special thanks to all of our presenters.

Annual General Report

**Thank you to all those who participated in our Annual General Meeting.
Please click to read our annual report:**

<https://aimga.ca/wp-content/uploads/documents/2020-aimga-annual-report.pdf>