



Health Care Careers e-Letter

February 2009

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Can physicians from other countries enter allied health fields?

Dear Reader,

In our last issue, we asked whether physicians from other countries would be good candidates for nonphysician health care careers.

Many international medical graduates (IMGs) come to the U.S. to pursue a career in medicine but are not able to match into a residency program (a requirement to practice medicine in the U.S.). For many of these physicians, a career in a non-physician field may be a viable option.

Would most if not all of these individuals have to start from the very beginning of a given field's educational requirements, or might there be some possibility of advanced standing based on their possessing an MD degree from another country?

One respondent wrote, "The transition from being a physician to being part of the health care team can be a real challenge for these students, and some have not been able to accept the fact that they are in a non-physician role."

Another noted that their diagnostic medical sonography program "waives all our prerequisites for entry except for English," then awards credit based on the quality of the applicant's medical education.

[Read all responses online.](#)

In related news, a new program in Canada will offer "fast track" credentialing for non-Canadian professionals in a number of high-need fields, including medical laboratory technologists, occupational therapists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, medical radiation technologists, and others ([DarkDaily](#), Jan. 20).

We [welcome your responses](#) on this or other health care career issues.

Best Regards,
Fred Donini-Lenhoff, editor

1. Have you completed your AMA survey?

The annual AMA survey of health professions education programs is now available, with participation from the following



accrediting agencies:

- American Art Therapy Association
- American Board of Genetic Counseling
- Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education
- American Dance Therapy Association
- American Orthoptic Council
- Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant
- American Society of Anesthesia Technologists and Technicians
- Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
- Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education
- Commission on Accreditation of Respiratory Care
- Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association
- Council on Accreditation of the National Recreation and Park Association
- Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
- Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology
- National Cancer Registrars Association

(Note: Data from programs accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences was collected in 2009.)

If your program is accredited by one of the above organizations and you have not yet received your survey via e-mail, please contact our survey hotline at survey-admin@ama-hccd.org or (312) 324-3140.

2. Featured profession: Art therapist

Art therapy is a mental health profession that uses the creative process of art making to improve and enhance the physical, mental, and emotional well being of individuals of all ages.

It is based on the belief that the creative process of artistic self-expression helps people resolve conflicts and problems, develop interpersonal skills, manage behavior, reduce stress, increase self-esteem and self-awareness, and achieve insight.

Learn more about this field, as described in the AMA's annual [Health Care Careers Directory](#) (PDF).

Also, check out our chart of [health care career income ranges](#), for salary in this and other health professions fields.

Finally, in a related item, one health care expert believes art and music are "sleeping giants with their unrealized potential to improve health quality" ([HealthLeaders Media](#), Jan. 20).

3. Order your Health Care Careers Directory now

Order your copy now of the 2009-2010 *Health Care Careers Directory*, with more than 8,000 educational programs in 81 different health care fields.

To order your copy, call 800 621-8335. To receive a copy of the order form, send an e-mail to meded@ama-assn.org. For fastest service, be sure to specify the phrase "HCCD" in the e-mail's subject line.

Note: The 2010-2011 edition is currently in production and will be released later this year.

4. Health care careers' news and views

A four-year degree isn't for everyone, but that doesn't necessarily mean you have to settle for a lower salary than you'd like. Three health care fields (nuclear medicine technologist, radiation therapist, and MRI technologist) make the [PayScale.com](#) list of the top 10 most lucrative careers for those without a four-year degree.

A new [Institute of Medicine report](#) calls for improvements in continuing education for health professionals. The report notes, "Continuing education efforts should bring health professionals from various disciplines together in carefully tailored learning environments. As team-based health care delivery becomes increasingly important, such interprofessional efforts will enable participants to learn both individually and as collaborative members of a team, with a common goal of improving patient outcomes."

Data from the fourth quarter of 2009 show that health care employers are ramping up hiring again after several slow quarters ([HealthLeaders Media](#), Jan. 15).

The popularity of allied health programs at Delta College in Michigan has led the school to achieve record enrollment ([Midland Daily News](#), Jan. 19).

Among its other recommendations, a new American Hospital Association report on health care workforce says that "hospitals need to help staff develop the skills necessary to work effectively in teams" ([Workforce 2015: Strategy Trumps Shortage](#)). The report was covered in the Jan. 28 [HealthLeaders Media](#).

A report on [Capital Public Radio](#) (Jan. 29) in Sacramento profiles clinical laboratory science and references a study predicting growth in allied health jobs in the Sacramento region from 60,000 today to more than 200,000 by 2030.

A small private college in Minnesota is on the leading edge of using health information technology across its curriculum to train health professionals for practice with a new generation of electronic health records ([Health Workforce News](#), January 2010).

Newly released data from the [American Academy of Physician Assistants](#) (PDF) provide detailed information on physician assistants, including demographics, distribution, specialty, employment characteristics, salary, and more.

5. On the calendar...

[Cardiovascular Professionals Week](#), Feb. 14-21

[National Athletic Training Month](#), March

[Dental Assistants Recognition Week](#), March 7-13

[Histotechnology Day](#), March 10

[National AHEC \(Area Health Education Center\) Week](#), March 23-27

6. Join international virtual discussion on interprofessional collaboration

How can interprofessional collaboration in education and practice contribute to better health outcomes?

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Health Professionals Global Network (HPGN) are addressing this question through the [Virtual Global Discussion Forum on Interprofessional Collaboration in Education and Practice](#).

7. Help get the word out about ExploreHealthCareers

ExploreHealthCareers offers free, objective, and reviewed information on health careers, enrichment programs, and educational funding for minority and low income students interested in careers in health care.

Copy and post an EHC logo (with a link to <http://www.ExploreHealthCareers.org>) on your Web site. If space allows, include this description: "Free information on health careers, enrichment programs & educational funding for minority and low income students."

Also, [register now](#) to get a Free Health Career Planning Kit and an online e-Newsletter.

Interested in more news?

In addition to the Health Care Careers e-Letter, the AMA also offers three other free monthly e-Letters that may be of interest:

The [Healthy Lifestyles e-Letter](#) provides information and tools that can assist in offering patients counseling on four key lifestyle behaviors (poor diet, physical inactivity, tobacco use, and excessive or risky use of alcohol) and their health consequences.

The [Ending Disparities e-Letter](#) shares news, information, and updates related to eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health care.

The [GME \(graduate medical education\) e-Letter](#) covers issues affecting GME -- everything from resident work hours and health workforce concerns to updates on accreditation activities and development of new subspecialties.

About us

The [Health Care Careers e-Letter](#) is produced by the American Medical Association (AMA).

This monthly newsletter covers educational trends and career-related issues in the health professions.

Give us your story ideas and feedback

Direct comments to [Fred Donini-Lenhoff](#), (312) 464-4635

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