



The Importance of Foreign-Trained Physicians in U.S. Healthcare



With an increasing U.S. population and a declining number of practicing physicians, the U.S. healthcare system is experiencing a shortage of healthcare providers. Foreign-trained physicians can provide a solution to this issue. AMO connects international medical students and graduates with rotations in the U.S., which can jump start their medical education with a complex healthcare system.

NATIONWIDE MEDICAL NEEDS

In the next decade, one third of current U.S. physicians will be at or past the average age of retirement. The predicted decline in physician numbers cannot be addressed by U.S. medical school graduates as competition for spots in medical school and high education price tags do not generate enough licensed professionals to meet demand. International medical students and graduates can fill this gap having received their education elsewhere with lower amounts of student debt.

COMMUNITIES IN NEED

Rural and low-income communities currently have the lowest physician-to-patient ratios. Such populations become dependent on minute clinics that often overcharge patients. Travel volunteer medical clinics can be more affordable but are only available occasionally and can only offer limited care and resources.

These communities fail to attract young U.S. physicians who, in order to pay off student debt, seek out high-income communities in metropolitan areas. To help attract foreign-trained students to these needy communities, the government has introduced programs that offer visas in exchange for medical service for an allotted time.

MEDICAL SPECIALTIES IN NEED

Primary care, family medicine, and geriatric medicine are the medical specialties that currently have the lowest physician numbers in the U.S. Trends from the 2019 Main Residency Match, also show that IMGs and FMGs have the greatest success in matching into these residency positions. Completing a residency in the U.S. is one of the last steps towards becoming a U.S. physician.

An AMO opportunities rotation gives you the experience you need to match into a U.S. residency program. Find more on our website at www.amopportunities.org.