Impact on International Medical Graduates

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Outline

• Challenges for graduates of international medical schools looking to pursue residency in the US
• Virtual interviews
• Visa and employment uncertainties
• Impact on the US Health Care System
IMG Medical Students

• Difficult to differentiate oneself from other candidates

• Changes to the licensing exams
  • Step 1 is now pass/fail
  • Step 2 CS has been cancelled

• Cancellations or limitations in ability to perform rotations in the US
  • Loss of time to acclimatize to US health care systems
  • Inability to obtain LORs
  • Unable to showcase their skills prior to residency applications
  • Decreased access to mentors
Virtual Interviews

✓ Decreased cost of travel/lodging

✗ Internet access and ability to do video interviews

✗ Time zone differences

✗ Loss of time to acclimatize to US health care systems
  • Interview questions may not always lend themselves well to their local practice

https://blog-tf.doximity.com/how-to-make-the-most-of-virtual-interviews
Visa Uncertainties

• Delays in visa processing for the upcoming year
  • Effect on IMGs at transition positions
  • Frequently changing

• ?Impact on family members/dependents of those who hold a current visa but need it extended or renewed or transitioned to a different visa program

• Concerns about job loss in systems that suffered financially during the pandemic
  • Usually these are underserved areas where IMGs tend to practice

• Huge area of stress for all non-US citizen IMGs
Impact on the US Health Care System

• Predicted shortfall of up to 121,900 physicians in the US by 2032\(^1\)

• Foreign trained physicians often work in underserved communities

• Foreign trained physicians constitute:
  • 23.6% overall physicians\(^2\)
  • 25% of hospital based physicians\(^2\)
  • 22% of physicians currently in residency\(^2\)
  • 33% of 8,515 infectious diseases physicians\(^3\)
  • 41% of 10,158 critical care physicians\(^3\)

• Regulatory limitations prevent IMGs from assisting in areas of need during the pandemic

2. American Medical Association 2019 Masterfile
Addressing the Challenges

• Understanding the changes
  • ECFMG
  • American Medical Association
  • NRMP

• Seek mentors and seek to mentor!

• Programs need to re-evaluate their screening and application review processes

• Virtual Interviews
  • Consider time zones, applicant access and applicant concerns
  • Inform applicants about what to expect during their interview and tips for virtual interviews