

Immigrants in Health Care

January 28, 2016

Panel Summary



Panelists



Amanda Bergson-Shilcock
National Skills Coalition



Joyce Sackey, MD
Tuft University School of Medicine



José Ramón Fernández-Peña, MD
Welcome Back Centers



Kira Khazatsky
Jewish Vocational Services

Comments in blue boxes are from webinar participants.

Discussion

Integrating Foreign-Trained Medical Professionals into U.S. Health Care

Doris N. from West Haven, CT: How a doctor from another country could get his credentials in United States?

- Any foreign-trained doctor who wants to practice as an MD must go through the [Educational Commission on Foreign Medical Graduates](#) (ECFMG)
- Must pass [United States Medical Licensing Examination](#)
- However, the ECFMG process is lengthy and may not result in becoming an MD if the immigrant is unable to get a medical residency at a U.S. hospital



Discussion

Integrating Foreign-Trained Medical Professionals into U.S. Health Care

- [Welcome Back Initiative](#) (WBI) and [IMPRINT](#) provide services to immigrant medical professionals to help them integrate into the U.S. workforce
 - WBI does in-depth assessment of each participant: who they are, who they want to be, professional training and family history
 - Individualized process helps assessment of optimal career pathways

Blake H. from St. Louis, MO: World Education Service and the folks at IMPRINT have been wonderful in assisting our highly skilled refugees in re-attaining their certification.



Discussion

Integrating Foreign-Trained Medical Professionals into U.S. Health Care



“Licensing is **a** pathway, but not **the** pathway.”

- Huge spectrum of health professions in this country that could be possibilities such as health administration, research or academia

Cheryl C. from Des Moines, Washington: MDs should also look into teaching at community colleges as well as universities provided they have passed all USMLE exams.

Discussion

Integrating Foreign-Trained Medical Professionals into U.S. Health Care

Cheryl C. from Des Moines, Washington: MDs may also look into research or accelerated Nursing or Respiratory Therapy or Physician Assistant. They are competitive programs but are an alternative for place-bound individuals.



“And many other careers in public health!”

Discussion

Now is the Time to Act

- Employers more likely to consider foreign-born and foreign-educated professionals for low-skill than high-skill positions

Sara B. from Boston, MA: I have seen such rampant pay discrimination against immigrant CNAs in elder care (particularly residential).

- High-skill positions not currently “huge sell” for employers



Discussion

Now is the Time to Act



“Fears and stereotypes begin to fade when immigrants are put to work. They show up and work!”

- Employers take note: immigrants bring immense value often volunteering for extra shifts when possible and quickly picking up policies/procedures of workplace
- Legislators and other policymakers take note: linguistically and culturally appropriate services will often solve important health care issues

Discussion

Now is the Time to Act



“If you were holding out on...reaching out to employer partners, the tide is turning and now is the time.”

- Large employers now willing and interested in investing in the immigrant workforce
- But, immigration reform still needed



“What a difference reform can make in the life of an individual.”

Discussion

Now is the Time to Act

Janeane R. from Quincy, IL: What organizations can I partner with as an employer to find immigrants for my workplace?

Tamar F. from Chicago: Janeane, check out Upwardly Global. We build connections between job seekers and companies and organizations

Mathew K. from WCNP: At Welcoming Center For New Pennsylvanians, we have a large group of Immigrant Professionals with credentials to work in the USA and you can reach out to us for any number you might need.

Susan O. from North Carolina: At Wake Tech, we're seeing many skilled immigrants arriving from Syria and Iraq, and I make referrals for credential evaluation daily.





Thank You

For a full list of resources, please visit the webinar webpage at bit.ly/ILHealthwebinar.

