



AIMGA NEWSLETTER

Edition 7
March 2023



Newsletter Features

- AIMGA IMG Symposium
- Living Well With AIMGA Newsletter
- Upcoming Programs & Presentations

The Career Transition Program and the Medical Communication Assessment Program has been made possible with funds from the Government of Canada.

The Patient Navigator Program has been made possible with funds from the Government of Alberta.

AIMGA IMG SYMPOSIUM

We are thrilled to share with you the highly anticipated date for our annual IMG Symposium! This year's event will be held online and feature esteemed guest speakers from CPSA, Alberta Health, and various other distinguished institutions.

Mark your calendars and be sure to save the date for an enlightening and informative experience that you won't want to miss. Our Symposium promises to provide a platform for insightful discussions, engaging presentations, and an opportunity to network with fellow professionals.

Stay tuned for more updates and information regarding the event as we draw closer to the date. We look forward to having you join us.

[Click here to register!](#)



AIMGA IMG SYMPOSIUM

March 30, 2023

Virtual Event
9:30AM–3:30PM MST

INSPIRING MINDS, FOSTERING PATHWAYS,
AND ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITY

Join us on March 30 for a series of guest speakers and events!

The sessions confirmed to date are:

- Applying for Jobs with Alberta Health Services by an **AHS Advisor with Human Resources, Talent Acquisition** | 9:15am-10:30am MST
- An Orientation to the Alberta Practice Readiness Assessment Route by the **CPSA and AHS** | 10:45am-12:00pm MST
- An Overview of the Alberta Clinical and Surgical Assistant Program by **AHS** | 12:30pm-1:45pm MST
- The Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment (**SIPPA**) by Dr. Jon Witt | 2:00pm-3:15pm MST
- An Orientation to Financial Supports for those who Matched to Residency or a PRA route by **MD Management** | 12:30pm-1:45pm
- An Orientation to the Precision Health Program at University of Calgary by **UofC Staff** | 2:00pm-3:15pm
- An Orientation to Financial Supports for IMGs pursuing licensure or alternative career pathways by **Windmill Microlending** | Time TBD

More to follow and we hope to see you there!



Helping IMGs Across Canada Succeed
www.aimga.ca



Funded by:

Immigration, Refugees
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et Citoyenneté Canada

HEALTH AND WELLNESS TEAM

Living Well With AMGA: A newsletter for newcomer communities

In January 2023, AIMGA launched a new monthly newsletter called Living Well with AIMGA, developed by IMGs on the Health and Wellness Team for community. Each newsletter focuses on a specific health-related topic such as mental health, heart health, the importance of sleep, and so on. The content is vetted by AIMGA's medical professionals and then distributed across social media platforms for families, community partners, immigrant-supporting agencies, and the general public at large. A simplified, printable one pager with summarized information and tips is also created for newcomer-serving agencies and healthcare partners. These sheets are translated into several key languages to support knowledge translation amongst newcomer populations.

In alignment with each newsletter theme, the Health and Wellness Team organizes a monthly event where IMGs are invited to share their knowledge and expertise in the form of

presentations, panels, or podcasts. This provides an additional opportunity for IMGs and the community to come together to network and learn about how to support health outcomes, while also sharing and promoting the content outlined in each monthly newsletter.

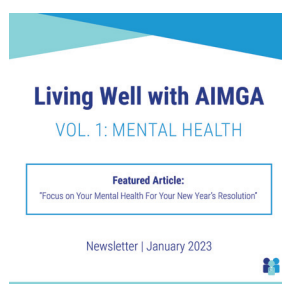
Mental Health & Resilience Presentation (attendees = 73)

- **89.5%** (n=17) of survey respondents said that the presentation increased their knowledge of the topic
- **89.5%** (n=17) of survey respondents said that the session was relevant to their needs

Heart Health Presentation (attendees = 59)

- **91.7%** (n=11) of survey respondents said that the presentation increased their knowledge of the topic
- **91.7%** (n=11) of survey respondents said that the session was relevant to their needs

Click on the image for the newsletter!



[January 2023](#)



[February 2023](#)



[March 2023](#)



"It was goal oriented and simple to follow."

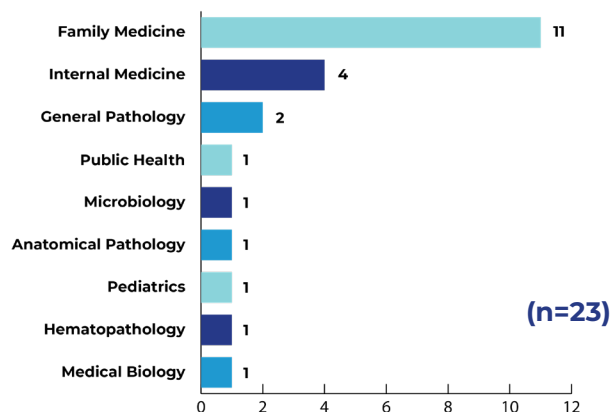
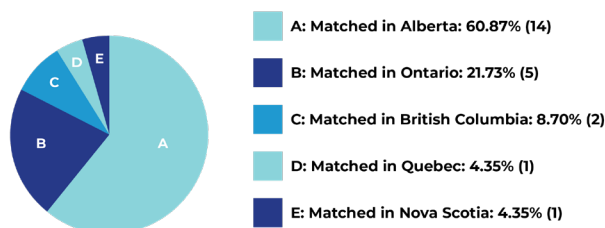
"Great presentations. The session on cardiac diseases and risk factors was the most interesting to me. I wish the Health and Wellness Hub at AIMGA would organize more sessions in this format around other common causes of morbidity/mortality in Canada, such as cancer, diabetes, mental health, etc... Thanks again for this learning opportunity."

RESIDENCY INTERVIEWS

We take pride in assisting IMGs throughout the CaRMS process and are thrilled to have conducted **211 interviews** this season with our dedicated AIMGA team. Our goal is to help IMGs succeed in their pursuit of a residency program and provide resources that will enable them to put their best foot forward during the interview process.

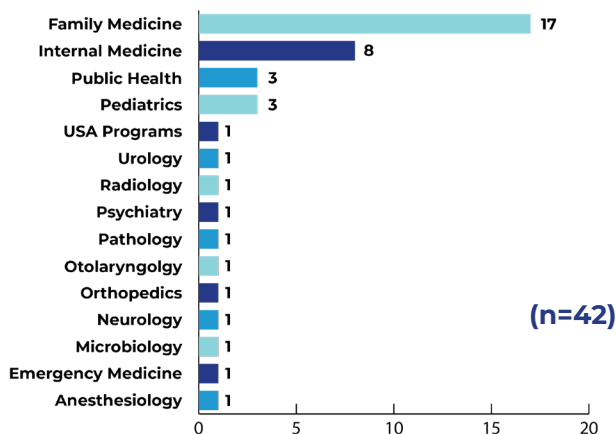
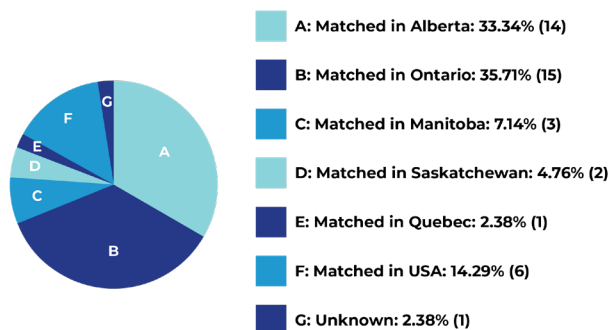
2020-2021 (N=23)

23 residency matches; self-reported



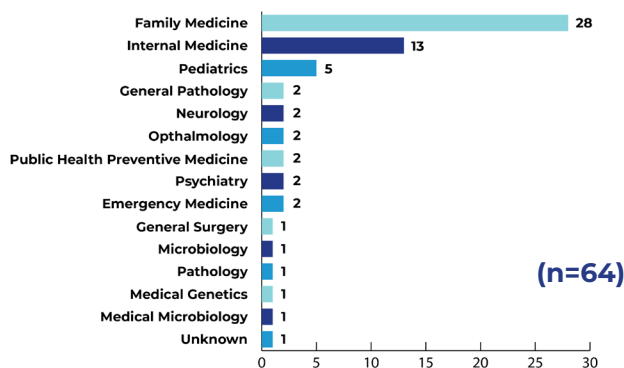
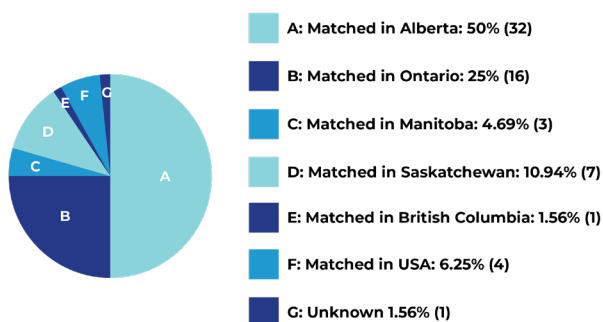
2021-2022 (N=42)

42 residency matches; self-reported



2022-2023 (N=64)

64 residency matches; self-reported



CARMS PREP COURSE

We had a total of 120 members complete the CaRMS preparation course from October 2022 to December 2022!

- 93%** felt the program **increased their knowledge**
- 86%** felt the program increased their **confidence in completing the CaRMS application**
- 96%** felt the program was **relevant to their needs and/or next steps**
- 92%** felt the **facilitators were knowledgeable**



"Thank you so much for this prep course. It really helped us to prepare well for CaRMS and oriented us to the specific requirements. Thank you team AIMGA."

"Really valuable for me. Since it was my first time applying, I didn't have any previous knowledge and no one to help guide me so it was of great help."

"The CaRMS preparation workshop was extremely important for me. It made me feel confident and helped me to become familiar with the CaRMS application. The moderator was very knowledgeable and professional."

"You are doing great work at AIMGA. All the facilitators are empathetic and understanding of the situation we face as IMGs in Canada, and all they want to do is help."

"Thank you AIMGA for all your support, guidance and encouragement throughout this journey!"

CAREER TRANSITION PROGRAM

The Career Transition Program is a 10 week program that assists IMGs who are considering an alternative career pathway in health as a short or long-term goal. CTP includes career workshops, coaching sessions, mentoring circles, and a mock interview with employers and HR consultants. We are in the second last week of Cohorts 14 and 15, and we are going to start accepting applications for our next cohort.

Next Cohort dates: April 14/15 to June 16/17

[Click here to register!](#)



MEDICAL COMMUNICATION ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

MCAP (Medical Communication Assessment Program) is a 12-week program for IMGs seeking licensure via CaRMS, ACSAP, PRA routes. Facilitated sessions include standardized patients, physician examiners, communication educators, and online modules.

Next Cohort dates: June to August

[Click here to register!](#)

METROPOLIS CONFERENCE

See below for presentations by AIMGA

25 Years of Digital Transformation in the Settlement Sector: Past, Present and Possible Futures

Presented by: Marco Campana, Jennifer Freeman (CEO, PeaceGeeks), Shona Munro (Director, Mhor Collective), Irene Mackintosh (Director Mhor Collective), Salwa El Haouti (Digital Champions Lead, GEO Nova Scotia), Danielle Pentland (GEO Nova Scotia), Sarah Kooi (ACS-Metropolis Institute), Nick Noorani (CEO, Nick Noorani Business Group), **Deidre Lake (AIMGA), and Shay Sharma (BlueJarvis Technologies)**

Join us for a moderated discussion on where we've been and where we're going when it comes to digital transformation in the settlement sector. We'll highlight emerging and promising digital practices in service provision. You will hear from a variety of practitioners from Canada and abroad on what the settlement sector can do to address digital inequality, and what the future of technology in settlement can look like. Audience participation is strongly encouraged! This session is being organized by ACS-Metropolis, with the support of the WES Mariam Assefa Fund

“Ally” – A Career Decision-Making Tool Designed to Provide Internationally Trained Medical Graduates with Access to Mentors and Alternative Careers

Presented by: Deidre Lake, Alberta International Medical Graduates Association (AIMGA) and Shay Sharma, BlueJarvis Technologies

Ally is a new online decision-making tool developed by the Alberta International Medical Graduates Association (AIMGA) that enables international medical graduates (IMGs) to explore alternative careers and be connected to potential mentors using LinkedIn. This presentation will outline AIMGA's dedication to advancing the economic integration of IMGs

through its' programs, services, and tools. This workshop will show how this tool provides access to over 100 alternative career profiles with information on salary, demand, training, and other details to help IMGs make informed career choices.

Increasing Capacity to Enhance Migrant Health Utilizing International Medical Graduates

Presented by: Deidre Lake, Executive Director, AIMGA and Dr. Annalee Coakley, Medical Director, Calgary Refugee Health Program

The disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable populations disadvantaged by their low socio-economic status highlights the need for collaborative solutions to the long-standing social inequities in healthcare. At the onset of the pandemic, data demonstrated how vulnerable populations were more likely to contract the virus and face inequities in accessing the vaccination. Alberta International Medical Graduates Association (AIMGA) began working with community partners in 2020 to mitigate this inequity gap. In this session, you will learn how community partners worked together to improve health outcomes and to inform best practices in newcomer health.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Latest Publication:

Choosing Alternative Career Pathways after Immigration: Aspects Internationally Educated Physicians Consider when Narrowing down Non-Physician Career Choices

[Click here to read the article!](#)

What's New in Toxicology:

The What's New in Toxicology? What Every Acute Care Practitioner Needs to Know Conference is a collaboration with the UBC Department of Emergency Medicine and the Drug and Poison Information Centre. It will be held on Sat, Apr 1 at Vancouver General Hospital

[Click here for more information and to register!](#)

CURRENTLY SEEKING Fulltime / Partime / Locum Physicians New Graduates or Experienced Physicians:

Located at the busy intersection of 137 Ave and Castledowns Road, Edmonton, AB

Our clinic offers:

- Friendly experienced staff including a Nurse and Billing Clerk
- Fully equipped Exam Rooms and a Procedure Room
- Connected to a Community Established Pharmacy
- Affiliated with PCN North
- User friendly Healthquest EMR
- Competative Split with Biweekly Payments

to arrange a clinic tour and meet our staff and physicians please call or email:

Sue Leia (Clinic Manager):

780-328-7737 // 2016qualitycare@gmail.com

or Debbie Halwas (Billing Clerk):

780-819-6399 // debbiehalwas@yahoo.ca

Our Team Looks Forward to Hearing from You Soon !!



NARHC - The North American Refugee Health Conference

The NARHC Conference is recognized as the preeminent conference destination for healthcare and resettlement professionals working with refugee populations. This three day conference focuses on issues that are relevant to the emerging field of refugee and immigrant healthcare. July 21-23, 2023, Calgary TELUS Convention Centre, Calgary, AB

[Click here to register!](#)

We are seeking 12-15 volunteers from Calgary to provide supports at the conference. Volunteers will receive free admission to the conference and will be welcomed to participate outside of their volunteer shifts. **If interested, contact Drew at drew@aimga.ca.**

Grow your Career Conference:

Join us for our sixth annual Grow Your Career Conference. Each year, we gather inspiring professionals and thought leaders who have forged unique careers, demonstrated resilience and made an impact in their communities to share their experiences and expertise with the alumni community.

This conference is on Sat. March 18 at the University of Calgary Downtown Campus!

[Click here for more details!](#)



The right **person** in the right **seat** at the right **time**. We are here to assist at every step in the licensure process from application to integration.

OFFICE LOCATIONS:

AIMGA CALGARY

Crescent Centre
Suite 202, 1409 Edmonton Trail NE
Calgary, AB T2E 3K8

P: 403.520.7730
www.aimga.ca

AIMGA EDMONTON

106 Street Tower
Suite 420, 10055 106 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 2Y2

P: 587.524.2750
www.aimga.ca



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