

AIMGA NEWSLETTER



Edition 4
December 2021

Holiday photos from AIMGA's Open House on December 1st.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Thank you all for attending our 2021 Annual General Meeting! We had approximately 130 members attend in addition to staff and board members!

[Click here for our annual general report.](#)



Special thanks to our Health and Wellness team:

[Click here to watch!](#)

Thank-you To Our Members



**Performance by Ahmed Hodelin;
Song: Mambo Timbalero by Tito Puente:**

[Click here to watch!](#)



Silver Bells by Funmi Dominic Olaoye:

[Click here to watch!](#)



FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

AIMGA has received funding from World Education Services (WES) to conduct research and develop initiatives related to supporting IMGs who wish to transition into non-physician occupations within the fields of health care and education. Based on the experiences of the Career Transition Program and as reported in the literature, the concept of IMGs in non-physician occupations is new to employers. A more in-depth understanding of the views and perspectives of these employers is required and will help AIMGA to;

- Gain a fuller understanding of the perceptions of employers hiring IMGs into non-physician occupations.
- Determine the skills required by IMGs to successfully transition into non-physician careers.
- Determine (in collaboration with employers) how employers can support IMGs as they move into non-physician occupations.

The goals of this project are to:

- Understand the perceptions and attitudes of employers
- Understand the barriers that IMGs face when transitioning into non-physician occupations
- Develop and implement initiatives that support the successful integration of IMGs into non-physician occupations within health care and education
- Collaborate with employers to create sustainable outcomes for both employers and IMGs.

For further information on this initiative, please contact Pam at pamela@aimga.ca.

Career Decision-making Tool for IMGs

AIMGA is creating a career-decision making tool for IMGs exploring alternative career pathways as a short, intermediate, or long-term goal. This has been made possible through the Mitac's Internship Program. This tool will be made available in the new year and we'll be asking our CTP participants and other members to pilot this tool and provide feedback.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CTP 2022

The Career Transition Program (CTP) is for those who are considering an alternative pathway into the Canadian health care system as a short or long-term career goal.

Now Accepting Applications!

This program is made possible with funds from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

Course Dates:

Saturday Jan 15, 2022 – March 26, 2022

Cohort 10: Fridays, 9:30am - 1:30pm MST

Cohort 11: Saturdays, 9:30am - 1:30pm MST

Deadline to apply:

Sunday, January 2nd, 2022 (11:59pm MST)

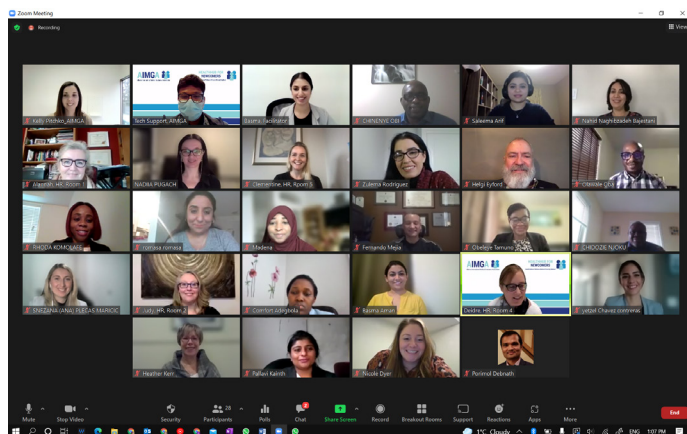
Apply here:

<https://aimga.ca/ctp-jan-2022-2/>

Questions

Contact AIMGA's Career Transition Coordinator, Kelly Pitchko at kelly@aimga.ca or 587-392-8062

CONGRATULATIONS TO COHORT 9 FOR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING OUR CAREER TRANSITION PROGRAM FOR IMGs



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

NAC OSCE Preparation Courses

Preparing for the NAC OSCE exam requires dedicated practice as well as candid feedback from preceptors and medical educators. In the summer months, AIMGA provided NAC OSCE study groups with R2 residents, licensed physicians, and medical educators. AIMGA also provided an online mock NAC OSCE for 63 of our members. A range of preceptors, including IMGs in practice and faculty from the Universities of Calgary and Alberta contributed their expertise to provide guidance to candidates about the time management, organization, and clinical considerations for each case. We are thrilled to offer these unique online opportunities, and we are thankful for the contributions of all those involved who tirelessly support our members' development to ensure exam readiness.

Upcoming NAC OSCE Study Groups

Our next NAC OSCE study group starts in January for those registered for the exam in March.

Proof of registration is required.

MCAP Online is Coming!

The Medical Communication Assessment Program is a competency based, outcomes driven training program to assist IMGs to successfully move through the steps to licensure and into the workplace. This program will be made available online to those destined for licensure.

- Module 1: An introduction to Patient-Centred Care
- Module 2: Giving Advice & Including the Patient in the Management Plan
- Module 3: Communicating with Teenagers
- Module 4: Dealing with Difficult Patients
- Module 5: Breaking Bad News
- Module 6: Medical Ethics
- Module 7: Preparing for the OSCE
- Module 8: Preparing for the MMI
- Module 9: Collaborative care, teamwork, and Conflict Resolution
- Module 10: Integrating Successfully into Rural Practice

Applications will be accepted in the new year.

AIMGA is Expanding!

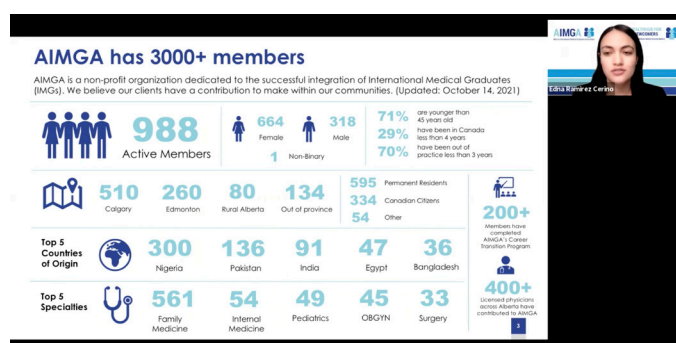
With support from the Government of Canada (IRCC) and services being made available online, AIMGA will be expanding to serve all IMGs across Canada in a pilot initiative. More details to follow in 2022.

NEWCOMER RESEARCH NETWORK SYMPOSIUM

AIMGA presented the following presentation at the NRN symposium at the University of Calgary on October 15.

Presentation title: Utilization of IMGs During COVID-19 in Multi-cultural Communities

[Click here to watch the presentation](#)



HEALTH AND WELLNESS TEAM UPDATES

Our health and wellness team has been actively supporting the City of Calgary's mobile vaccine clinics. Our team has been meeting on Fridays from 9:30-10:30am and will resume on January 7th, 2022. We'd like to acknowledge Dr. Annalee Coakley, Dr. Jia Hu, and Dr. Maaria Castillo for joining our sessions for discussions and updates. We have also been supporting the Mosaic PCN and CCIS with incoming Afghan families. This has been a rewarding experience for our members. We have also done several presentations to LINC/ESL classes. Our health and wellness team has received several requests for supports. More information and initiatives are planned for 2022.

For more information on our team or to book a presentation, please contact Deidre at deidre@aimga.ca.

Congratulations

Special congratulations to Edna Ramirez Cerino, AIMGA's Health and Wellness Coordinator for her delivery of a baby boy. Edna is now on maternity leave and greatly missed. Also, special congratulations to Nuruddin Lakhani, AIMGA's Public Health/QE1 Coordinator for obtaining a Clinical Assistant position in Pediatrics. And, congratulations to our members who have experienced success on exams or in obtaining employment in healthcare during 2021!



APPLYING FOR CARMS?

AIMGA has you covered. AIMGA has:

- Delivered workshops on the application form, CaRMS CV, and Personal Statements
- We had a session delivered by CaRMS to respond to our members questions
- We have a CaRMS group for our members who are applying with recommended resources and responses to FAQs
- We have increased our one-to-one consults for January to make sure our members are getting the support they require and submitting their applications with confidence

To book one-on-one consults, login, and click: <https://aimga.ca/consultations-and-appointments/>

CALGARY OFFICE RENOVATIONS

Calgary's office has been expanded and renovated. We will be offering blended classes in the New Year. We look forward to seeing you in person and online!

Before:



After:



NETWORKING AT AIMGA

AIMGA's holiday networking session on December 1st was a success! We are now offering monthly networking sessions and we hope to see you in the New Year!



WHAT'S NEW AT AIMGA?

Introduction of Groups

We have created several interactive groups on our website for the following: Career Transition Program (CTP), Exam Preparation Programs (QE1, NAC-OSCE, TDM), our Health and Wellness Team, and for those applying to CaRMS. These online groups provide a variety of resources and communication tools that allow our staff and members to connect, to share updates, and ask questions. Groups are accessible to those enrolled in these programs or by request. Please [click here](#) to see the list of groups that are available.

Employment Forum

Did you know that AIMGA has an employment forum? We post jobs in healthcare on this forum for our members. If you are seeking employment, you can login, click on community tab, and find our employment forum. If you require assistance creating a resume or if you've been called for an interview, let us assist you by booking a consult with one of our advisors.

Employment Forum: <https://aimga.ca/forums/forum/employment-forum/>

To book one-to-one consults: <https://aimga.ca/consultations-and-appointments/>

Preparing to apply for residency in Alberta?

AIMGA has supports for every step in the process. Residency seats for IMGs in Alberta are only open to residents of Alberta. Proof of residency is required for the period of December 1st, 2021 to mid-May 2022. AIMGA can act as a guarantor for proof of residence. Please ensure you are participating in programs during this period and/or dropping in to our Calgary or Edmonton offices weekly or bi-weekly.

Office Hours

We are closed for the holiday season from December 23rd to January 2nd. Our offices reopen on Monday, January 3rd.

- Calgary hours: Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm and Saturdays 9:00am to 3:00pm
- Edmonton hours: Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 4:30pm

THE IMMIGRATION EDUCATION SOCIETY NEWCOMER COMMUNITY COOKBOOK

Although people come from different cultures and languages, there is one thing many of us have in common: a love of good food!

The Immigration Education Society is launching a fundraiser to develop our third installment of the Newcomer Community Cookbook, and we invite you to join us.

Newcomers to Canada, who often struggle with adapting to their new home and language, can find community, connection and empowerment through food: growing fresh ingredients, making traditional recipes, and sharing them with others.

To date, we, at The Immigrant Education Society (TIES), in partnership with The Alex, have created and completed a total of fifteen Newcomer Community Cookbook videos: instructional cooking videos by a refugee or newcomer, featuring their homemade dish.

Feel free to check the Newcomer Community Cookbook's last installments to get a better sense of what your donation would go into!

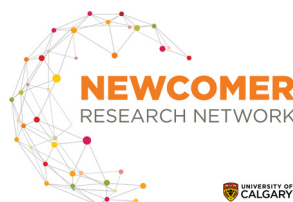
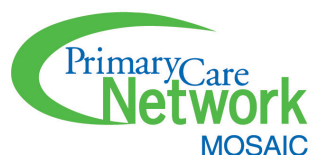
<https://www.immigrant-education.ca/programs/settlement/grow/grow-community-video-cookbook/>

If you are unable to make a donation, consider following us on social media on Facebook and Instagram where we will be posting updates on the fundraiser along with exciting new content!

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration.



SPECIAL THANKS AND HOLIDAY WISHES TO OUR PARTNERS



AND OUR FUNDERS



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



Public Health
Agency of Canada
Agence de la santé
publique du Canada





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:

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