

AIMGA NEWSLETTER

Edition 5
March 2022



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.

CAREER TRANSITION PROGRAM

The Career Transition Program (CTP) assists IMGs who are considering an alternative pathway into the Canadian Healthcare system as a short or long-term goal.

The goals of CTP are to:

- increase IMG's overall knowledge and awareness of alternative careers through a series of employment related workshops.
- provide participants an opportunity to meet with fellow IMGs in alternative careers and to obtain feedback from employment coaches and mentors
- Equip IMGs with the tools necessary to manage their own career.

AIMGA was able to run two concurrent CTP cohorts from Jan – Mar 2022. Over the past 10 weeks, we've supported 32 members to navigate their career transition journey.

AIMGA is currently accepting applications for our next CTP intake, which is scheduled to start on April 23rd, 2022.

Career Transition Program has been made possible with funds from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Therefore, it is open to applicants who are permanent residents or refugees.

Special Thank you

Our CTP facilitator Basma Sheikh (Cohorts 4-11) has accepted a new position outside of AIMGA. Basma has been an integral part of the CTP team. AIMGA will miss Basma very much, but we are grateful for all the support that she has provided, and we wish her all the best as she enters this next chapter in her career.



"It has been such a treat to get to know all our CTP participants and watch them grow throughout these workshops. Several of our CTP participants from our most recent cohorts have already been successful in their job search, as we have had participants secure positions as physician assistant, contact tracer, public health specialist and administrative support. The remaining CTP participants have continued to applied the skills that they have learned throughout the workshops to securing interviews and grow their network." ~ Basma Sheikh



Figure 1. CTP Midway Point

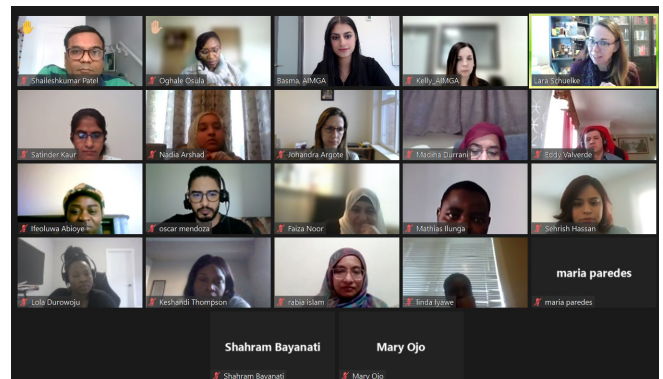


Figure 2. CTP Workshop 3

MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MCAP)

AIMGA is pleased to offer MCAP Online, a synchronous online program accompanied by web-based modules. This course was developed by Deidre Lake, our Executive Director and offered at UofC and UofA from 2005-2011 (MCAP Classroom) and Online from 2012-2013, then through Communicate2Integrate from 2016-2017 (MCAP Online Plus for Rural AB).

This course is facilitated by a communication instructor and practicing physicians. The online classes focus on pertinent information included in the modules and contain practice cases with standardized patients where feedback is provided.

The online modules include:

- 1 An Introduction to Patient-Centred Care
- 2 Giving Advice & Including the Patient in the Management Plan
- 3 Communicating with Teenagers
- 4 Dealing with Difficult Patients
- 5 Breaking Bad News
- 6 Medical Ethics

Applicants can be any of the following:

1. IMGs that are PRA eligible
2. IMGs who are applying to the 2023 CaRMS cycle

The Medical Communication Assessment Program (MCAP) has been offered for the first time at AIMGA through the Service Delivery Improvement Project (SDI) funded by the Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). AIMGA sees this initiative as promising and favorable for its membership.

MCAP has been proven statistically to be an effective program in addressing both the socio-cultural professional needs of IMGs and their professional advancement into practice.

The first two cohorts of MCAP Online were offered from January - March 2022. The program accommodated 40 IRCC eligible members (32 from AB, 6 from SK and 2 from BC) who met the program criteria. In addition, three Case Assessments were conducted to allow participants to demonstrate their learning throughout the program. For those who had proof of NAC OSCE registration, a mock NAC OSCE session was provided to ensure exam readiness.

These activities provided exposure to standardized medical scenarios, interactions with standardized patients and performance feedback from examining physicians and communication assessors. All of these aided the development of participants' medical communication, cultural competence, and clinical knowledge within the specifics of the Canadian Healthcare System.

Applications for the next cohort are currently being accepted. For those who meet the criteria and are interested in participating in this program, appointments should be booked with either Rossalia or Kathleen.

Book consults here: <https://aimga.ca/consultations-and-appointments/>



Dr. Tamer El-Mays is an MCAP Graduate who obtained a residency position in Family Medicine and is now in practice in Airdrie, Alberta.

He is also one of the physician examiners for AIMGA.

[Click here to watch his testimonial!](#)

PATIENT NAVIGATOR COURSE

This project is designed to support IMGs transition into positions as a patient navigator, educator, or community-based researchers/scholars. Transitioning AIMGA's members into the areas of health education and research not only benefits the public but the IMG's social, professional, and economic development as well.

This program proposes to bridge this gap by offering required skill building in the following core competencies:

- Applying strategies for health promotion and education.
- Identifying relevant and appropriate sources of information to make evidence-based decisions, and recommendations.
- Using skills such as team building and group facilitation to build partnerships.
- Displaying the socio-cultural competencies required to interact effectively with diverse individuals, groups, and communities.
- Addressing various dimensions of communication including internal and external exchanges; written, verbal, non-verbal and active listening skills.
- Demonstrating leadership competencies that build capacity, improve performance, and enhance health literacy and access to the Alberta healthcare system and supports.

The goals of this initiative are:

1. To assist IMGs to transition from a position of underemployment to a position where:
 - their skills and knowledge are being utilized;
 - there is a significant increase in their earnings
 - increased job satisfaction levels are reported;
 - they are making a greater contribution to society.
2. Contribute to the ongoing research around alternative career pathways for IMGs, their career advancement, and successful integration into the areas of health and wellness

Components:

- 1 Community Interpreter Training Certificate
- 2 Patient Navigator Certificate
- 3 Overview of the Canadian Health Care System (AHS/PCN)
- 4 Instructional Skills Workshop / Ready to Teach
- 5 Community Based Research
- 6 Work Placement / Mentorship

Eligibility Criteria:

- IELTS 6.5 (or equivalent)
- Desire to enter into a patient navigator role within the community
- Available weekdays (9:00am to 3:30pm)
- Commit to the completion of the components of the program
- Able to join using a desktop or a laptop
- Able to use a Learner Management System (LMS) and Zoom (an orientation will be provided)

Application Process:

Applications for our first cohort are currently being accepted. For those who are interested in participating in this program, appointments should be booked with Pam.

Book consults here: <https://aimga.ca/consultations-and-appointments/>

"The development of this program stemmed from the work of our Health and Wellness Team and community needs. I am grateful to the Governments of Alberta and Canada for making this program possible as it not only positively impacts our members but community as well. We look forward to working with our partners throughout this project and the success of our IMGs." ~ Deidre Lake, AIMGA's Executive Director

AIMGA IMG SYMPOSIUM 2022

Fostering Pathways to Licensure, Employment, and Community for IMGs



Over 500 members participated in AIMGA's Online Symposium

AIMGA'S ANNUAL IMG SYMPOSIUM WAS ON MARCH 22 AND 29, 2022.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to all of our fantastic guest speakers.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ALBERTA CLINICAL AND SURGICAL ASSISTANT POSITIONS (ACSAP)

Presented by Robert Bunn, Manager of Physician Services, AHS

AN OVERVIEW OF THE PRACTICE READINESS ASSESSMENT IN SASKATCHEWAN (SIPPA)

Presented by Dr. Jon Witt, SIPPA's Medical Director

AN OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT SAIT PROGRAMS FOR IMGs CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVE CAREERS

Presented by Aig Imoukhuede, Academic Advisor for the School of Health and Public Safety

A PANEL DISCUSSION ON ALTERNATIVE CAREERS

Panelists include Ali Assi (Senior Research and Engagement Lead at the University of Alberta), Catherine Akinola (Medical Science Liaison for Astra Zeneca),

Jennifer Eyford (Associate Director at the Alex), Nicole Dyer (Co-President at Vytality at Home), and Nuruddin Lakhani (Clinical Assistant at AHS).

EMPLOYER PANEL: WHAT DO EMPLOYERS REALLY WANT? TIPS & ADVICE FOR THOSE APPLYING FOR JOBS

Presented by Agnes Dallison (Research Manager at the Cumming School of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine, UCalgary), Alannah Turner (Human Resources Consultant), Leanna Craig (Human Resources Director at Carya), and Nicole Dyer (Co-President at Vytality at Home).

ALTERNATIVE CAREERS: A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH IMGs

Panelists include Ali Assi (Senior Research and Engagement Lead at the University of Alberta), Catherine Akinola (Medical Science Liaison for Astra Zeneca), Obiageli Oladeji (AHS Contact Tracer), and Uche Katchy (Geographic Public Health Lead Alberta and Northwest Territories, Red Cross).

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ALBERTA ADOLESCENT RECOVERY CENTRE (AARC) AND ADDICTIONS

Presented by Donny Serink

AN OVERVIEW OF THE PRACTICE READINESS ASSESSMENT (PRA) ROUTE FOR IMGs

Presented by College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) and Alberta Health Services Medical Affairs

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE PRACTICE ELIGIBILITY ROUTE FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS

Presented by The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)

AN OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING AIMGA PROGRAMS

Presented by Deidre Lake, Kathleen Hall, and Pamela Heath

SURVEYS

AIMGA's Annual Survey:

Deadline: April 15, 2022

We'd love to hear from you!

<https://aimga.ca/feedback-survey-2022/>

iKNOW Health Multi-lingual Survey:

With great thanks to our Health and Wellness team members along with the support from AHS, we have completed the iKNOW Health multi-lingual survey translations.

Now is the time for you and your community members to fill out the survey.

<https://redcap.albertahealthservices.ca/surveys/?s=D7TLWXNLYLWRY8PK>

English

Spanish

French

Arabic

Punjabi

Amharic

Somali

Tagalog

Deadline:

Tigrinya

Chinese

April 28, 2022

COVID-19 Vaccine Beliefs Among Black Communities in Alberta: A Research Study

Dr. Nwachukwu, and associates from the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta are conducting a research study.

The purpose of this research is to understand attitudes and beliefs around COVID-19 vaccines among members of Black communities in Alberta. The findings will be used to inform public health on strategies for increasing vaccine uptake among Black communities.

Seeking as many people as possible who identify as Black in the community of Alberta.

<https://redcap.ucalgary.ca/surveys/?s=YX99FR4YKT>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holiday Office Closure:

Our Calgary and Edmonton offices are closed on Good Friday (April 15) and Easter Monday (April 18). We will not have any events on those days.

Open for Blended Learning:

Our Calgary and Edmonton offices will be open for in-person events as of April 1, 2022. We are excited to see you back **in person and online** for our blended learning sessions!



Check our Calendar for our Upcoming Programs and Sessions:

<https://aimga.ca/calendar/>





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



Funded by:

Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Financé par :

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



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

