



INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM

“If you want to see (feel) the best approach to palliative care and education, you go to visit San Diego Hospice.”

“After almost two months at home [after my visit to San Diego] I can notice that my knowledge about palliative care is higher in my every day work. My decisions with patients and their family about many things are easier and I know I have always time for negotiation and explanation.”

*Maja Šeruga, MD
Slovenia
August 2009*

Overview

The International Visitors Program at the Institute for Palliative Medicine (IPM) enables healthcare professionals who received their training outside North America to acquire core knowledge and skills of palliative care. It will also provide an overview of a comprehensive palliative care program that serves a large geographic region with a population of 3.2 million people.

Healthcare professionals who visit San Diego Hospice and the Institute for Palliative Medicine (SDHIPM) will have a program customized to their educational goals, the length of their visit with us, and the availability of our faculty and staff. Typical activities include:

- 1. Classroom education sessions based on the Education in Palliative and End-Of-Life Care for Oncology (EPEC-Oncology) Curriculum that our faculty helped develop. See <http://www.ipcrc.net/who-education-epec-oncology.php> to download EPEC-Oncology.*
- 2. Participation in a facilitated session with a simulated patient to practice breaking bad news.*
- 3. Participation in bedside clinical services as an observer in one or more of our clinical settings, including our inpatient acute care center, home care, long-term care, an inpatient consult service in one of the acute care hospitals in San Diego County. Each day will include discussions with IPM physicians and other members of our interdisciplinary teams, including nurses, medical social workers, spiritual counselors, integrative medicine practitioners, volunteers, etc...*
- 4. Meetings can be arranged with our administrative and clinical leaders to discuss policy, medication availability, education, administrative, clinical service, ethics, research or advocacy issues that are of interest to you.*

Ongoing Education: *While at SDHIPM, International Visitors will participate in ongoing educational programs offered to our US Palliative Medicine Fellows, medical residents and interdisciplinary staff, including twice-weekly case-based conferences, weekly fellow seminars, monthly Morbidity and Mortality conferences and special guest presentations. During these educational sessions, Visitors will have the opportunity to experience different presentation styles and teaching formats.*

Last Day: *The final day, long-stay Visitors will come back together with their program preceptor to discuss further topics, present a Personal Reflection Project, debrief and evaluate their experience at SDHIPM.*

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Standardized Patient

During the training period, each Visitor will complete a session with standardized patients. The Visitors will participate in a group session facilitated by a physician faculty member. In this session, participants will try different ways of communicating bad news to a standardized patient with advanced cancer; evaluating his/her performance; and will receive feedback from peers, the simulated patient, and the faculty member. At the same time, the Visitor will learn how to observe and give effective feedback to other trainees.

Educational Resources

While visiting SDHIPM, Visitors will have access to a wide range of online and printed educational resources. We will also provide participants with a number of resources to take home, both on a USB memory stick and as printed materials.

Evaluation

On the first and last days of the visit to SDHIPM, we will be asking participants to complete several different evaluation tools to assess attitudes, knowledge and skills, and provide feedback to help us improve our International Visitors program.

Certification

On successful completion of a four-week visit to San Diego and all of the evaluation tools, we will present the Visitor with a certificate of completion and a transcript from the Institute for Palliative Medicine, a primary teaching affiliate of the University of California San Diego School of Medicine.

Requirements

Medical English

As all of our teaching and clinical activities take place in English, International Visitors must be proficient in both spoken and written medical English. We will conduct a brief telephone interview with interested candidates before finally accepting their application to ensure they have enough English proficiency to benefit from this program.

US Visa

Visitors will also need to have a valid United States B1/B2 visitor visa.

This unique program has been made possible through generous support provided by private donors

Application Process

To apply to be an International Visitor, please:

- *Complete an International Visitor application form online*
- *E-mail or fax back the Agreement form signed by you and your immediate supervisor in your workplace (if appropriate)*
- *Provide us with your up-to-date curriculum vitae (using our format) and a photograph of yourself (a JPG or TIF file)*
- *Provide us with scanned copies (PDF or image files) and English translations of your:*
 - *medical or other professional degrees*
 - *license to practice medicine or your discipline in your country*
 - *all of your specialty training certificates*
- *Participate in a telephone interview with one of our IPM faculty leading the International Visitor Program so we can get to know you a little better in advance of your visit to San Diego*
- *Sign the consent to participate in pre and post testing of your attitudes, knowledge and perception of your competence related to palliative care, and complete an evaluation of the Visitors program.*

As the process to schedule your visit can take several weeks, please e-mail all of your completed materials to us as soon as possible.

The Faculty and Staff of the Institute for Palliative Medicine hope that you will consider submitting an application to participate in our International Visitors Program. If we can answer any further questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch with us through:

For Further Information:

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