THE INSTITUTE FOR PALLIATIVE MEDICINE
at San Diego Hospice

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INTERNATIONAL VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM

This unique program has been made possible by a generous grant provided by the US National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland (5R25CA104990-05) that was sponsored by

NCI's Office of International Affairs

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The International Visiting Scholars program at the Institute for Palliative Medicine (IPM) enables physicians who received their medical training outside North America to receive classroom and bedside training in the 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.

This unique educational program is modeled after IPM's program to train US Medical Residents in palliative care. It has been made possible by a generous grant provided by the US National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland (5R25CA104990-05) that was sponsored by the Office of International Affairs at the National Cancer Institute.

Overview

Physicians who are accepted into the International Visiting Scholars program will spend four weeks training at San Diego Hospice and the Institute for Palliative Medicine (SDHIPM).

Week 1: *During the first week, participants will participate in classroom-based education on a variety of core palliative care topics through a number of interactive, facilitated presentations and case discussions. IPM bases all of its educational activities 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. The first week will also include a facilitated session with a simulated patient to practice breaking bad news.*

Weeks 2-4: *The second, third and fourth weeks will be spent in at least two different clinical settings, including our inpatient acute care center, home care, and 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..*

Ongoing Education: *While at IPM, International Visiting Scholars 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, Visiting Scholars will have the opportunity to experience different presentation styles and teaching formats.*

Last Day: *The final day, participants will come back together in classroom to discuss further topics, present a Personal Reflection Project, debrief and evaluate their 4-week experience.*

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Standardized Patient

During the training period, each visiting scholar will complete a session with standardized patients. The visiting scholars 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 visiting scholar will learn how to observe and give effective feedback to other trainees.

Educational Resources

While visiting SDHIPM, Visiting Scholars 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

The International Visiting Scholar program is a National Cancer Institute funded research project looking at the effectiveness of a four-week educational program to build core knowledge and skills in physicians who received their medical training outside North America. 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 Visiting Scholars program.

Certification

On successful completion of a four-week visit to San Diego and all of the evaluation tools, we will present the participant 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 Visiting Scholars must be physicians who are 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

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

"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

Application Process

Through a unique arrangement with the San Diego County Medical Society, we anticipate that participants who meet our requirements will be able to see patients, plan and deliver palliative care in direct collaboration with IPM physicians and other members of our interdisciplinary teams.

To make this possible, applicants must:

- *Complete an International Visiting Scholar application form (signed by participant and immediate supervisor in workplace)*
- *Provide us with up-to-date curriculum vitae (using our format) and a photograph (headshot) of the applicant (a JPG or TIF image file)*
- *Provide us with scanned copies (PDF or image files) and English translations of the following documents:*
    - *medical degree*
    - *licensed to practice medicine in your country*
    - *all specialty training certificates*
- *Complete a malpractice insurance application form. This insurance is required for all doctors working at San Diego Hospice and The Institute for Palliative Medicine. IPM will pay for malpractice insurance once the application is approved by our insurance company.*
- *Participate in a telephone interview with one of the faculty leading the International Visiting Scholar Program.*
- *Sign the consent to participate in pre and post testing of attitudes, knowledge and perception of competences related to palliative care, and the evaluation of this Visiting Scholars program.*

As the process to review medical training and malpractice insurance applications can take several weeks, applicants must email 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 Visiting Scholars Program. If we can answer any further questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch with us through:

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