ECFMG®
EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES

FAIMER®
Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research

Eleanor Fitzpatrick, MA
Director, House of Medicine Initiatives
Global Education in Medicine Services

APPD – Fall Meeting
September 27, 2019

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Today's Topics

- Introductions
- ECFMG & FAIMER Role and Responsibilities
- IMG Data Highlights
- Support Services and Advocacy for IMGs
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) - IMG Mentorship Program
  Open Discussion / Q &A

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ECFMG® + FAIMER®

Educational Commission
for Foreign Medical Graduates
Established in 1956
to evaluate IMGs for entry into GME

Foundation for Advancement
of International Medical
Education and Research
Established in 2000

Partnering to Improve Medical Education and Health Care Worldwide

William W. Pinsky, M.D., FAAP, FACC
President /CEO, ECFMG, Chair, Board of Directors, FAIMER

Jeanette Mladenovic, MD, MBA
President FAIMER - August 2019

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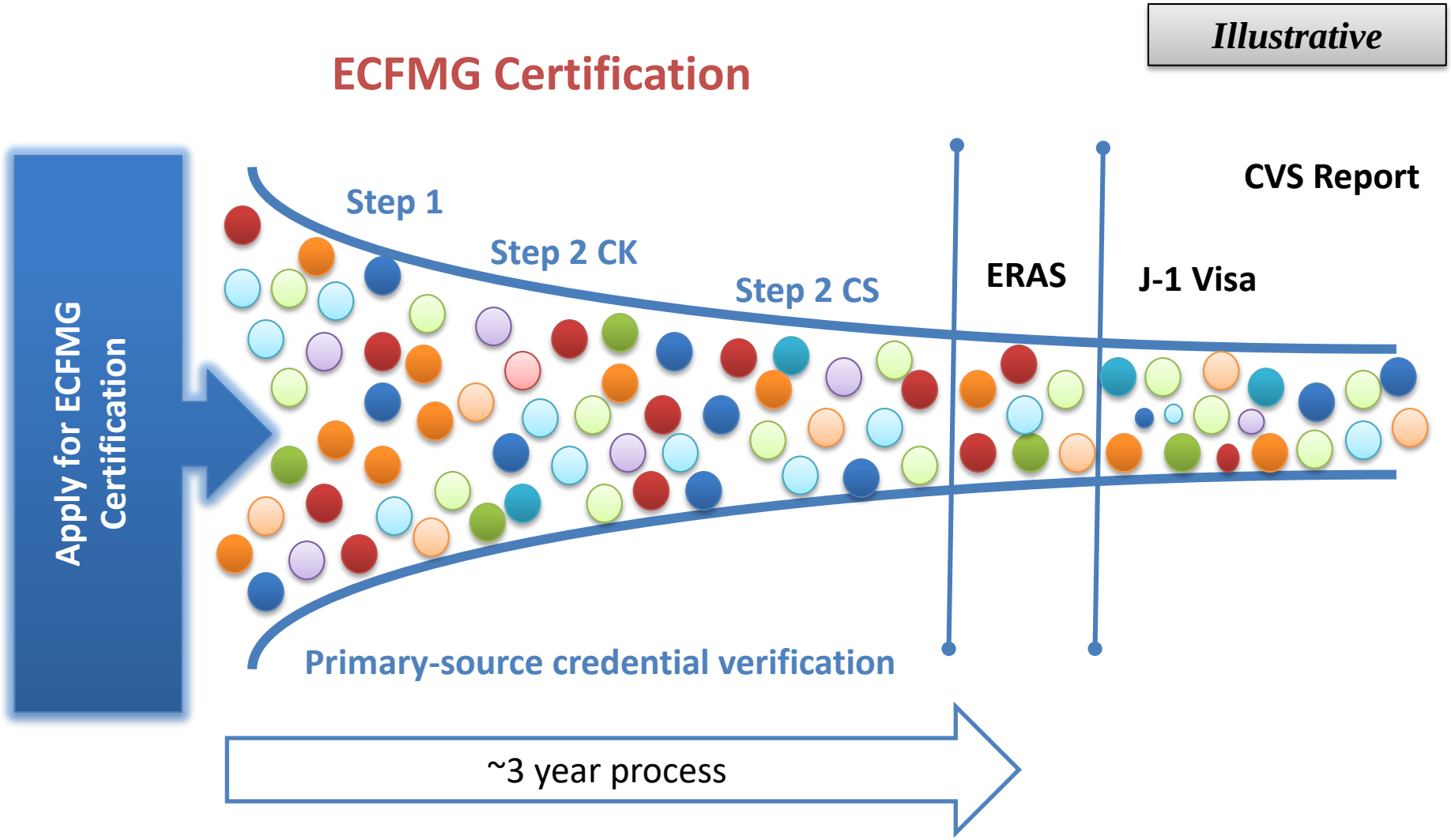
U.S. Programs and Services



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2010 ECFMG Board Resolution

Effective in 2023, individuals applying for ***ECFMG Certification*** *will be required to graduate from a medical school that has been appropriately accredited* ***by an accrediting agency that is formally recognized****.*

2023 accreditation

https://www.ecfmg.org/accreditation/

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IMG Data Highlights 2018-19

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ECFMG Annual Volumes: Services for IMG Entering US GME

- USMLE Registrations ⬇
- ECFMG Certification (~9,500 IMGs/yr) ⬇
- ERAS Support Services (~21,000+ tokens IMGs/yr) ⬇
- J-1 Visa Sponsorship Program (~11,200+ IMGs/yr) ⬆

✓ Decrease in applicants from Caribbean schools & Muslim-majority countries
✓ immigration environment
✓ Increased competition for GME slots
✓ Increased reliance on the J-1 over H-1B visas for GME

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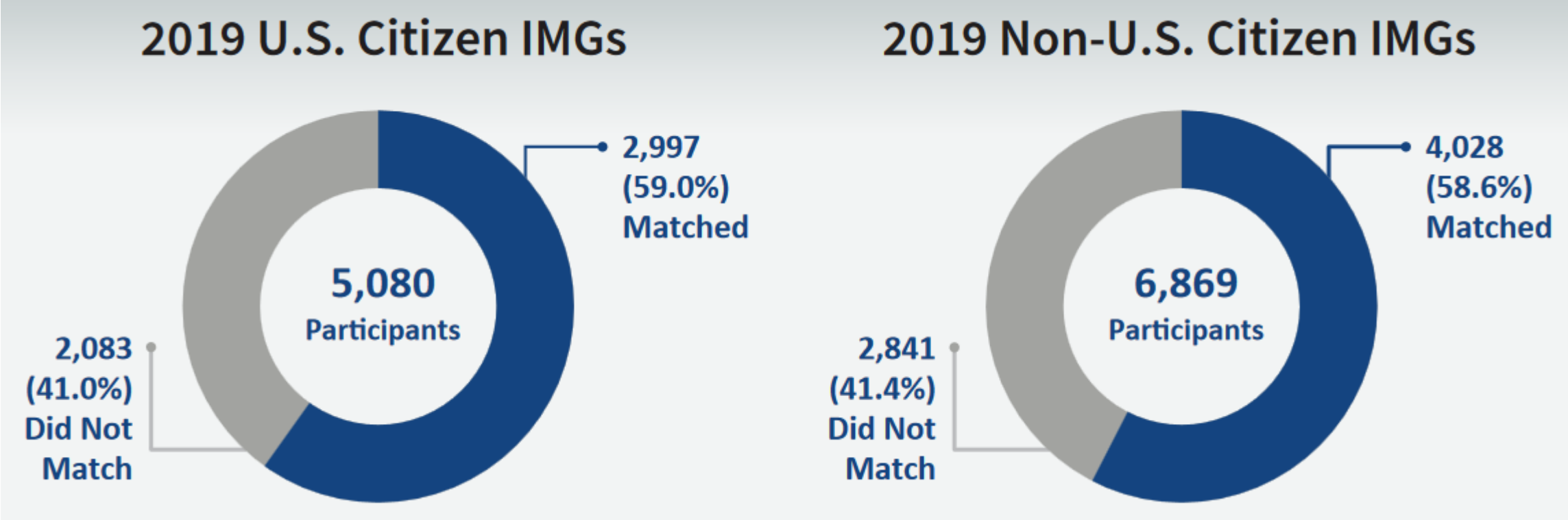
2019 Match: IMGs Matched

- Match rates for **US citizen & non-US citizen IMGs** highest in 25+ years



NRMP: Charting Outcomes in the Match: International Medical Graduates, 2018

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JAMA September 10, 2019 - Graduate Medical Education 2018-19

by Sarah Brotherton, PhD, and Sylvia Estzel

Appendix

Table 2. Resident Physicians on Duty in ACGME-Accredited and in Combined Specialty GME Programs December 31, 2018 (continued)

	Total No. of Programs[a]	Resident Physicians, No. (%)[b]					
		Total	Female	USMDs	IMGs	Canadians	Osteopathic
Pediatrics	212	8950 (6.6)	6449 (72.1)	6044 (67.5)	1692 (18.9)	4 (<0.1)	1210 (13.5)
Adolescent medicine	29	86 (0.1)	69 (80.2)	68 (79.1)	9 (10.5)	0	9 (10.5)
Child abuse pediatrics	32	37 (<0.1)	34 (91.9)	25 (67.6)	5 (13.5)	0	7 (18.9)
Clinical informatics	5	13 (<0.1)	5 (38.5)	11 (84.6)	1 (7.7)	1 (7.7)	0
Developmental-behavioral pediatrics	42	109 (0.1)	92 (84.4)	65 (59.6)	28 (25.7)	0	16 (14.7)
Neonatal-perinatal medicine	102	760 (0.6)	561 (73.8)	434 (57.1)	226 (29.7)	1 (0.1)	99 (13.0)
Pediatric cardiology	60	436 (0.3)	224 (51.4)	316 (72.5)	89 (20.4)	3 (0.7)	28 (6.4)
Pediatric critical care medicine	68	504 (0.4)	302 (59.9)	339 (67.3)	121 (24.0)	1 (0.2)	43 (8.5)
Pediatric emergency medicine	52	408 (0.3)	287 (70.3)	292 (71.6)	72 (17.6)	0	44 (10.8)
Pediatric endocrinology	72	236 (0.2)	190 (80.5)	125 (53.0)	98 (41.5)	0	13 (5.5)
Pediatric gastroenterology	64	303 (0.2)	197 (65.0)	193 (63.7)	81 (26.7)	0	29 (9.6)
Pediatric hematology/oncology	74	491 (0.4)	332 (67.6)	353 (71.9)	95 (19.3)	1 (0.2)	42 (8.6)
Pediatric infectious diseases	65	180 (0.1)	108 (60.0)	113 (62.8)	55 (30.6)	0	12 (6.7)
Pediatric nephrology	45	110 (0.1)	83 (75.5)	70 (63.6)	32 (29.1)	0	8 (7.3)
Pediatric pulmonology	54	161 (0.1)	104 (64.6)	85 (52.8)	61 (37.9)	0	15 (9.3)
Pediatric rheumatology	35	98 (0.1)	71 (72.4)	66 (67.3)	22 (22.4)	0	10 (10.2)
Pediatric sports medicine	17	25 (<0.1)	10 (40.0)	16 (64.0)	1 (4.0)	1 (4.0)	7 (28.0)
Pediatric transplant hepatology	15	9 (<0.1)	7 (77.8)	5 (55.6)	2 (22.2)	1 (11.1)	1 (11.1)

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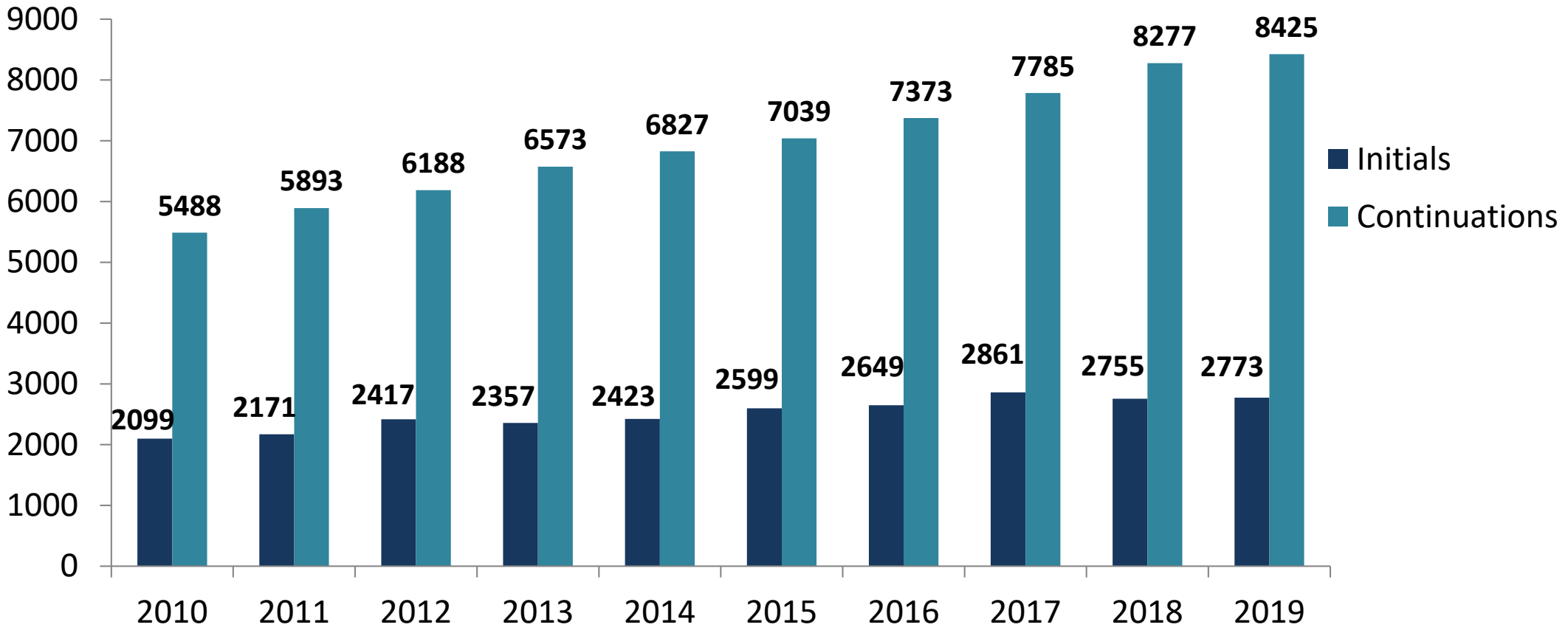
ECFMG J-1 Sponsorship Snapshot: 2010-2019



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J-1 Visa Sponsorship: AY 2019 ~ 11,000 Total

Top Specialties

Specialty	% of J-1s
INTERNAL MEDICINE	51%
PEDIATRICS	**10%**
FAMILY MEDICINE	7%
NEUROLOGY	6%
SURGERY	6%
PSYCHIATRY	4%
PATHOLOGY-ANATOMIC/CLINICAL	3%
RADIOLOGY-DIAGNOSTIC	3%
ANESTHESIOLOGY	2%
OBSTETRICS & GYN	1%

Source: ECFMG

Top Countries of Origin

Country Name	No. of J-1s
CANADA	2,392
INDIA	2,341
PAKISTAN	1,070
SAUDI ARABIA	423
LEBANON	393
JORDAN	331
EGYPT	273
VENEZUELA	243
NIGERIA	196
COLOMBIA	191

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IMGs in US Physician Workforce

Self-Declared Practice Specialty	MD/DO	IMG	Total	%
INTERNAL MEDICINE	85026	56475	141501	39.91
FAMILY MEDICINE	**85171**	**24877**	**110048**	**22.61**
PEDIATRICS	**51097**	**17331**	**68428**	**25.33**
EMERGENCY MEDICINE	45604	3636	49240	7.38
ANESTHESIOLOGY	38016	10274	48290	21.28
OBSTETRICS & GYN	38693	6763	45456	14.88
PSYCHIATRY	30543	13375	43918	30.45
GENERAL SURGERY	27869	6865	34734	19.76
RADIOLOGY-DIAGNOSTIC	26777	3458	30235	11.44
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE	17520	8154	25674	31.76

Source: AMA Masterfile 2018

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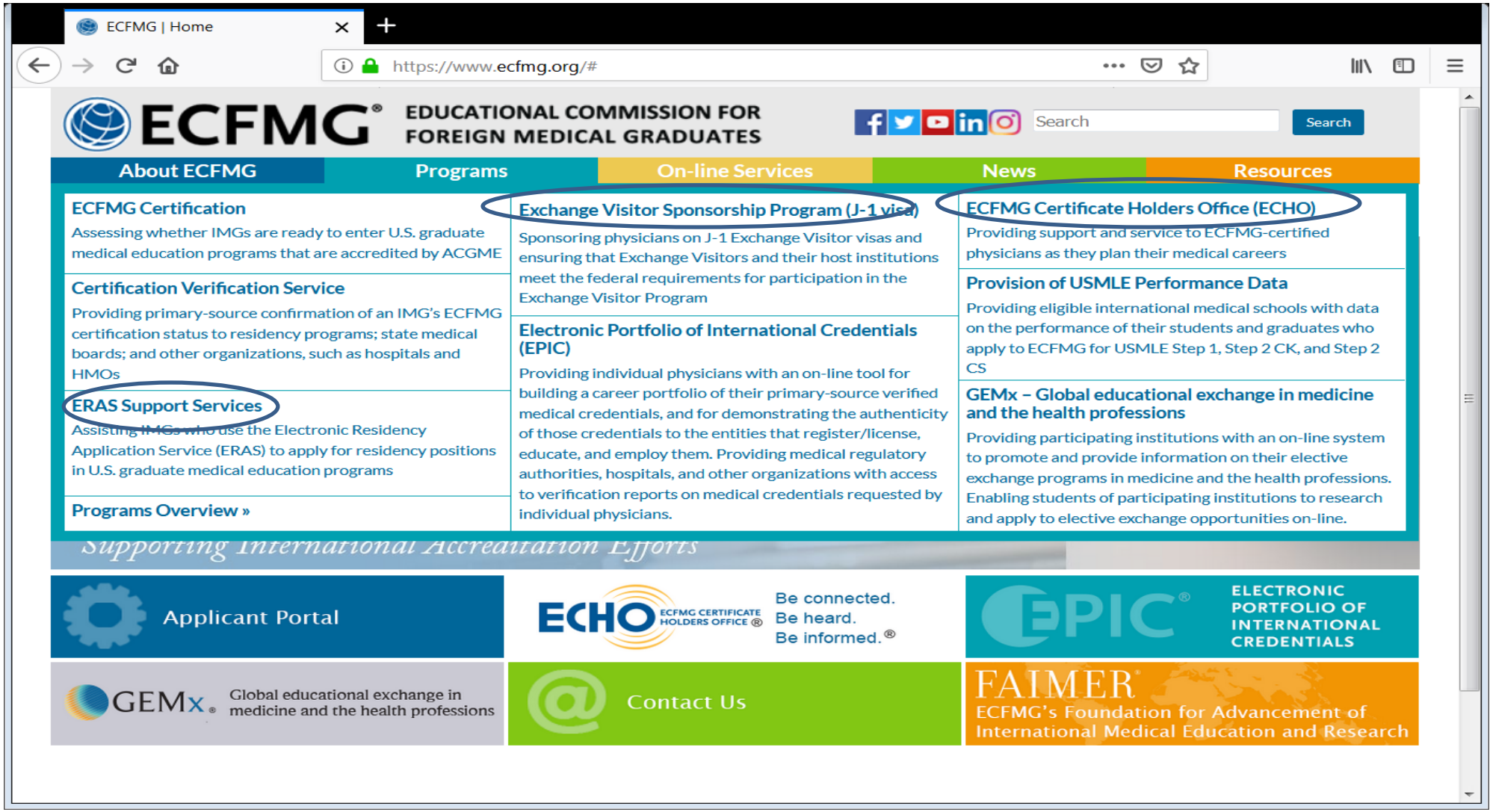
ECFMG-FAIMER Support Services for IMGs



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EVSP Provides Direct Support/Monitoring of J-1 Physicians

- ✓ Access to a **Training Program Liaison (TPL)** at the host institution
- ✓ Open phone lines and Email support @ evsp-support@ecfmg.org
- ✓ Pre-arrival orientation materials and acculturation resources
- ✓ On-going webinars, emails - policy updates, reminders, travel, applications renewal etc.
- ✓ Resources on cross-cultural activities
- ✓ Reference Guide https://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/evsprfgd.pdf
- ✓ **Confidential reporting / advising with EVSP senior staff**
- ✓ **Health, safety and welfare checks**
- ✓ Opportunities to share stories and experience - JourneysInMedicine@ecfmg.org
- ✓ In-person meet and greet events with staff

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ECFMG-FAIMER Support for all IMGs in U.S. GME

https://www.ecfmg.org/news/

- **Monitors and reports on immigration developments**
  - Direct e-mails and website resources for IMGs and U.S. Programs
- **Collaborates closely with the U.S. academic medical community**
  - Stakeholder engagements, sharing resources, data, and research
  - Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being & Resilience initiative of National Academy of Medicine
  - New diversity language in ACGME Common Program Requirements
- **Educates on the importance of IMGs to U.S. GME and health care**
  - Outreach and media coverage to policymakers, industry leaders & the public
  - Articles, podcasts, op-eds, position statements, presentations etc.

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Best Practices in Supporting IMG Residents & Fellows

Awareness of the common IMG struggles:

- Transition to residency in new educational system plus Acculturation
- Homesickness / guilt - family obligations
- Finances
- Isolation / lack of belonging
- Communication and language
- Immigration - late arrival, travel risks
- Discrimination / bias
- Uncertainty about fellowship opportunities / future

Develop appropriate support systems at the program & institutional level

- Educate faculty and staff
- Embrace opportunities for diversity, inclusion, cultural competency
- Buddy system
- ***Mentorship***

*** Share by PD/leaders of high IMG specialty organizations: AAIM, AADPRT, ACP, CNPD**

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Questions

Information

www.ecfmg.org |

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