

BRIDGE Newsletter

INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED MEDICAL DOCTORS (ITMDs)

VOL.3, FALL 2018

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Message from the Co-Founder and Program Manager/Lead, ITMD Bridging Program, Ryerson University

Since Ryerson University's Internationally Trained Medical Doctors (ITMD) Bridging Program began in Winter 2015, it has achieved outstanding success. Competition for admission to the program is quite competitive, with more than 900 applications received to date. 130 students have been trained by the program, and an additional 25 students in our 8th cohort are expected to complete the program in December 2018. We are extremely proud of the program's diversity; ITMD Bridging Program graduates represent 36 countries from around the world. Over 86% of our graduates successfully transition into positions in the non-licensed health sector or pursue further studies in public health higher education.

The Internationally Trained Medical Doctors (ITMD) Bridging Program provides the skills and competencies for highly educated and experienced ITMDs to gain employment in health research and health management positions in Ontario, as an alternative to clinical practice. The program provides Canadian context, as well as develops expertise in health research methodology; healthcare project management; health informatics and data management; health professional communication; and culture and leadership training through academic content and institutional practicum placements for participants.

Through 13 weeks of coursework and an 8-week practicum, the ITMD Bridging Program provides its students with training to transition into non-licensed healthcare sector employment. The program's alumni continue to make meaningful impacts in the healthcare sector.

ITMD Program: The Power of Diversity

The Internationally Trained Medical Doctors (ITMD) Bridging Program has successfully trained 130 ITMDs. Moreover, another 25 internationally trained medical professionals are currently enrolled in the ITMD Program. All participants are of diverse backgrounds and originate from 36 countries.

As of Spring 2018, the percentage of women who participated in the ITMD Bridging Program is slightly higher than men, with women accounting

for 52.3 percent of the total enrolment and men accounting for 47.7 percent.

While the majority of the ITMD Bridging Program participants are from Asia and Africa, we've observed a new trend with the last few cohorts showing an increased number of participants coming from South-American countries.

Diversity and inclusivity is a priority for the ITMD Bridging Program; it is important for our participants to feel welcomed and supported so that they can achieve their very best.

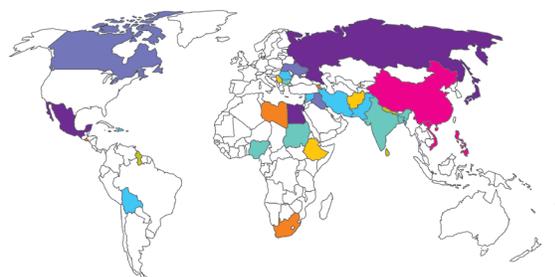


Dr. Shafi U. Bhuiyan

In Winter 2018, we successfully completed our evidence-based study, "Roadmap for ITMDs", which was funded by the Government of Ontario's Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. The research project engaged more than 130 ITMDs and stakeholders to identify alternative career pathways for ITMDs.

In Spring 2018, the ITMD Bridging Program received funding from the Government of Ontario to expand the program for funding for future cohorts up to March 2021. This program continues to gain momentum and we are excited to witness its growth in these next few years.

I would personally like to thank The Chang School, our partners, and our alumni for their assistance and continued support towards the success of this program.



Diversity and inclusivity is a priority for the ITMD Bridging Program

ITMD Participants



Cohort 8 Orientation: August 2018

**Fall 2018
Cohort 8**

16 countries

**25 participants
(9 males / 16 females)**

Alumni Inspirations



Ayman Abdelhady (from Egypt), Cohort 3

I believe that participation in the ITMD bridging program has enriched my skills and equipped me with the necessary tools to advance my career in Canada. I found that welcoming classmates and engaged faculty were among the most important factors in creating a positive learning environment, along with friendship and unforgettable memories.



Amir Ahari (from Iran), Cohort 1

If there is will, there is a way, and the ITMD bridging program is the way. The program helped me to further develop and adjust my skills for successful insertion in the Canadian health care system.



Nour Amiri (from Iran), Cohort 3

I feel very fortunate to be a part of the ITMD bridging program here at Ryerson University. This innovative and intensive professional development program aims to utilize the skills of international medical graduates and integrate their hard and soft skills within the Canadian context. It

offers a unique point of entry into the Canadian health care system.



Shiva Barati (from Iran), Cohort 4

The ITMD bridging program is an excellent way to update your knowledge and earn new skills in an insider multicultural environment. You start your journey to success from this platform and expand it to your new multicultural home, the Canadian health care system, where you grow and thrive.



Mohammad Biswas (from Bangladesh), Cohort 5

I am very honored for the opportunity to be a student of this program. The concise diversity of strategic course content and the opportunity to complete a practicum placement focused on experiential learning in a Canadian organization made this program unique and indispensable. I want to thank all of the previous ITMDs who provided us with successful paradigms to combat with inevitable challenges in a Canadian new environment. Thank you to Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and his experienced team

members who created the ITMD bridging program to build the foundation of professional careers for internationally trained medical doctors.



Maryam Danesh (from Iran), Cohort 5

The ITMD bridging program addresses all the gaps international medical graduates encounter to help ITMDs integrate into the Canadian healthcare system. With its comprehensive approach, participants develop the required knowledge, skills, and confidence to successfully enter the Canadian workplace.



Neelam Dehal (from India), Cohort 6

The ITMD is a perfect example of the phrase "Where talent meets opportunity". It is a platform for sharing experiences with researchers and medical professionals with diverse backgrounds from different countries. The program helps to strengthen your professional competencies in research methodology, health informatics, project management, and communication skills and

provides excellent prospects for networking. The program's lead, Dr. Bhuiyan, is full of positive energy and enthusiasm and is the motivation for everyone to keep moving forward. I really want to extend my thanks to Dr. Bhuiyan as well as other instructors who are putting in their best efforts to help internationally trained medical doctors to acquire the necessary expertise to integrate into the non-licensed healthcare sector in Canada.



Aisha Hamdam (from Pakistan), Cohort 5

"Just because something is not happening for you right now, does not mean that it will never happen." I totally agree with this quote, especially after joining the ITMD bridging program. Being selected for this program helped me gain confidence and a sense of achievement. The program has helped me enhance my knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential to succeed in a multicultural workplace and in a Canadian context. This is a one-of-a-kind bridging program for internationally trained medical doctors; I surely recommend this well-constructed program to all ITMDs in Canada.



Rijwana Haque (from Bangladesh), Cohort 4

Amid many resources to help international medical graduates in Toronto, the ITMD bridging program is one of a kind. The precise course contents and excellent teaching method enabled me absorb all information very smoothly. This program is a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between the experience of ITMDs and the skills they need to contribute to the Canadian health care system. All the efforts taken by Professor Shafi Bhuiyan and his colleagues have motivated me to move forward with great confidence.



Siddharth Joshi (from Nepal), Cohort 2

The ITMD bridging program helps its participants to increase their confidence in the areas of health research, project management, and communication so that we can be productive in the health care system.



Amal Rezk (from Egypt), Cohort 4

The ITMD bridging program is a great avenue to advance my skills and bridge the gap between my previous experiences and employment in non-licensed careers in the Canadian health care industry. I believe this

program is a strong starting point in resuming my graduate studies. It provides greater exposure to Canadian language, culture, and soft skills which helps me be more acculturated to the Canadian system. I believe this program is continuously enhanced and customized to the specific needs of individual applicants.



Mizanur Shuvra (from Bangladesh), Cohort 3

My conclusion about this program would be that the ITMD bridging program is a one-stop program that equips internationally trained medical doctors with the required knowledge, attitude, behavior, and skills for entering the mainstream non-licensed Canadian health care job market.



Emal Stanizai (from Afghanistan), Cohort 5

This program brings a unique blend of cultural and professional experience with health professionals from a variety of countries. The enthusiasm and zest of peers and positive feedback from lecturers and Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan have strengthened my motivation. I enhanced my academic skills during this program, gaining expertise and professionally relevant training in research methodology, health informatics, and program management. The practicum placement facilitated my exposure to the Canadian healthcare system. The ITMD bridging program provided me with the theoretical framework and practical experience to successfully integrate into the Canadian workforce. I strongly recommend this program to other ITMDs.



Dilusha Thiyagaratnam (from Sri Lanka), Cohort 6

The ITMD bridging program provides a unique platform for the under-recognized talent in internationally trained medical doctors and public health professionals. It is a melting pot of cultures and ideas, where information is shared enthusiastically. It is a nurturing environment, pioneered by Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, and facilitated by an engaging team of instructors. This program is designed to advance skills in health informatics, research methods, project management, and communication and leadership in the Canadian context. I look forward to the practicum placement, where I will be able to integrate my international medical background with the professional benchmarks of the Canadian healthcare system.

OUR SUPPORT PARTNERS





ITMD Program: Mid-Summer Mix and Mingle (July 2018)

Related Events



CSIH CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH
SCSI LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE
DE SANTÉ INTERNATIONALE

Canadian Conference on Global Health – Fragile Environments and Global Health: Examining Drivers of Change

November 19–21, 2018

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Website: csih.org/en/events/canadian-conference-global-health



**The Chang School
of Continuing
Education**

ITMD Program Winter Mix and Mingle

December 3, 2018

Ryerson University

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

ITMD Project Management Forum

December 4, 2018

Ryerson University

Toronto, Ontario, Canada



MCH Handbook

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook Conference

December 12–14, 2018

Bangkok, Thailand

Website: mchhandbook.com/conferences-on-the-mch-handbook/

ITMDs Alumni Social Initiative

Alumni from various cohorts of the Internationally Trained Medical Doctors (ITMD) Bridging Program have joined together and formed the “Toronto Global Doctors Lions Club” under Lions International - District A711 to serve the community and promote health and well-being.

*Toronto Global Doctors - Lions Clubs International,
District A-711, Ontario, Canada*



ITMDs’ Selected Publications

Bhuiyan, S., Begum, H., Tofghi, H., Pathan, S., Hassan, M., and Abdelmalek, M. (2018). “Sort, Assess, Life-Saving Interventions, Treat and Transport (SALT) Methodology and its Effect on Patient Outcome During Mass Casualty Incidents: A Systematic Review.” *Global Scientific Research Journal of Public Health* Vol 1 (1)1-9

Ahmed, S., Khan, N., Pulok, M., Majumder, and M., Bhuiyan, S. (2018). “Effects of Maltreatment during Childhood in Developing Mental Illness in Canadian Population.” The 3rd Mental Health for All (MH4A) Conference, October 22-23, 2018, Canada

Bhuiyan, S., Begum, H., Thiyagaratnam, D., Al-Araji, A., Saad, W., Dehal, N., Micheal, M., Naeem, F., Anwar, M., Choudhury, R. (2018) “Community clinics and primary healthcare facilities’ utilization and lessons learned from evidence-based selected studies in Bangladesh to ensure better health for all ‘no one left behind’.” *Journal of Public Health and Development*, In press

Kazi W, Bhuiyan S. (2018) “A Systematic Review of the Literature on the Unsafe Injection Practices in the Health-Care Settings and the Associated Blood Borne Disease Trend: Experiences from Selected South Asian Countries.” *J Community Prev Med.* 1(2):1-17.

Sharmin, M., Zannatul, N. M., Shamim, A., Shafi, U.B. (2018) “Knowledge attitude practice of essential newborn care among postnatal mothers.” *Journal of Health Research.* 6 (1): 1-12.

USEFUL LINKS

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ryerson.ca/ce/itmd

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