

BRIDGE Newsletter

INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED MEDICAL DOCTORS (ITMDs)

Celebrating 5 years | Winter/ Spring 2020, Vol. 6



Years of Empowering ITMD

Message from the ITMD Bridging Program, Ryerson University, co-founder and program manager

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As we celebrate the fifth anniversary of launching the Internationally Trained Medical Doctors (ITMD) Bridging Program, I am delighted to extend my sincere congratulations to The Chang School, our partners, and our proud alumni on this auspicious occasion. This milestone offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the important contributions the program has made to the personal and academic development of 205 students. The ITMD Bridging Program for non-licensed healthcare employment provides highly educated and experienced ITMDs with the skills and competencies necessary to gain employment in health research and health sector management positions across Ontario as an alternative to clinical practice.

The ITMD Bridging program provides participants with a greater understanding of the Canadian healthcare context, as well as tools to develop expertise in health research methodology, health care project management, health informatics, data management, and health professional communication, culture, and leadership. The program also conducts multi-disciplinary research management seminars and provides institutional practicum placements for participants.

In Winter 2018, the program received funding from the Government of Ontario to pilot the program for a total of six cohorts (to train 150 ITMD) up to March 2021. As of December 2019, the government has funded four cohorts of the ITMD program (98 participants/ITMD graduates).

Currently, the Spring 2020 session recruitment process is finalized, involving 25 participants from 15 countries. We are extremely proud of the program's diversity--participants (new immigrant health professionals) represent 44 different countries.



Dr. Shafi U. Bhuiyan PhD

This program continues to gain momentum, and we are excited to witness the program's growth in the coming years. As of today, program participants have a job/higher education engagement rate of over 85%.

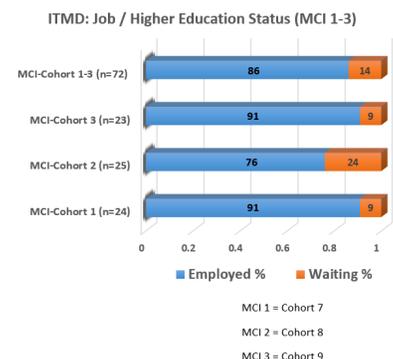
On behalf of the program team and proud ITMD Bridging Program participants, I would like to extend our heartiest thanks to Ryerson University senior management, The Chang School Dean's office, the program's committed project advisory committee (PAC), practicum placement support partners, and our respected colleagues including the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) for their continued support.

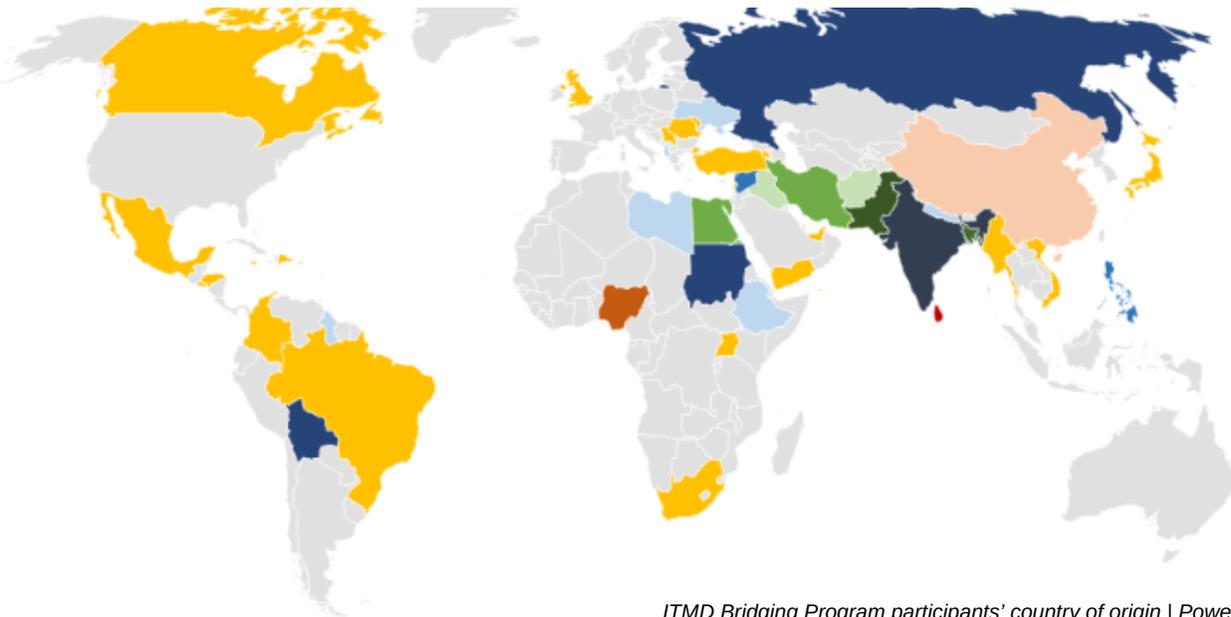
We look forward to working with all our stakeholders and partners to make the program an even greater success!

Celebrating 5 years and counting

Since its establishment five years ago, the ITMD Bridging Program has continued to evolve and improve, bringing about the best results for its participants. The program serves as a cornerstone for international doctors to achieve success professionally. The co-founder, Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, and the faculty members continuously support the students as they strive to pursue higher education and successfully integrate into the Canadian workforce.

Our research shows that nearly two-thirds of program participants, in every cohort, have successfully secured either employment or higher education in each of their respective fields, and about one-third are waiting for the next best opportunity. The combination of in-class and hands-on practicum experiences successfully boosts the efficacy of the program and results in evidence-based professional achievement.





ITMD Bridging Program participants' country of origin | Powered by Bing



ITMD Bridging Program 5th Anniversary (December 2019)

Professional achievements of selected alumni



Emal Stanizai cohort 5 | Research Manager at St. Michael's Hospital

The ITMD Bridging Program offers a unique blend of cultural and professional experience with health professionals from a range of countries. The enthusiasm and zest of my peers and the positive feedback from lecturers, in particular, Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, have strengthened my motivation. The program enhanced my academic skills and I gained experience 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 internationally trained medical graduates.



Nabeela Ilyas cohort 8 | Epic Analyst, Central East Local Health Integration Network

The ITMD Bridging Program gave me the platform and training required to get into the Canadian workforce. I learned additional skills and received guidance in building my resume according to local needs. The lecturers were very knowledgeable and the classes were interactive. Dr. Bhuiyan was a constant pillar of strength and very helpful. One can easily converse with him and ask for helpful feedback at any point in time. He always goes

above and beyond to support you. I got a practicum placement at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children at the end of the program, which later converted into a full time job. Currently, I am working with the Central East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), which wouldn't have been possible without the stepping-stone provided by this program.



Sabeen Ehsan cohort 4 | Clinical Planning Lead, Senior Care Network

The ITMD Bridging Program served as a great launch pad for my academic career in Canada. The program helped me become more familiar with the Canadian healthcare system and the emerging field of health informatics. The in-class sessions and the practicum experience at Health Quality Ontario (HQO) allowed me to make an informed decision about pursuing a Master's in Health Informatics (MHI) at

the University of Toronto. I am currently in the last session of the MHI and am excited to finish my coursework.



Andrey Kildyushov cohort 4 | Senior Analyst at Canadian Institute for Health Information

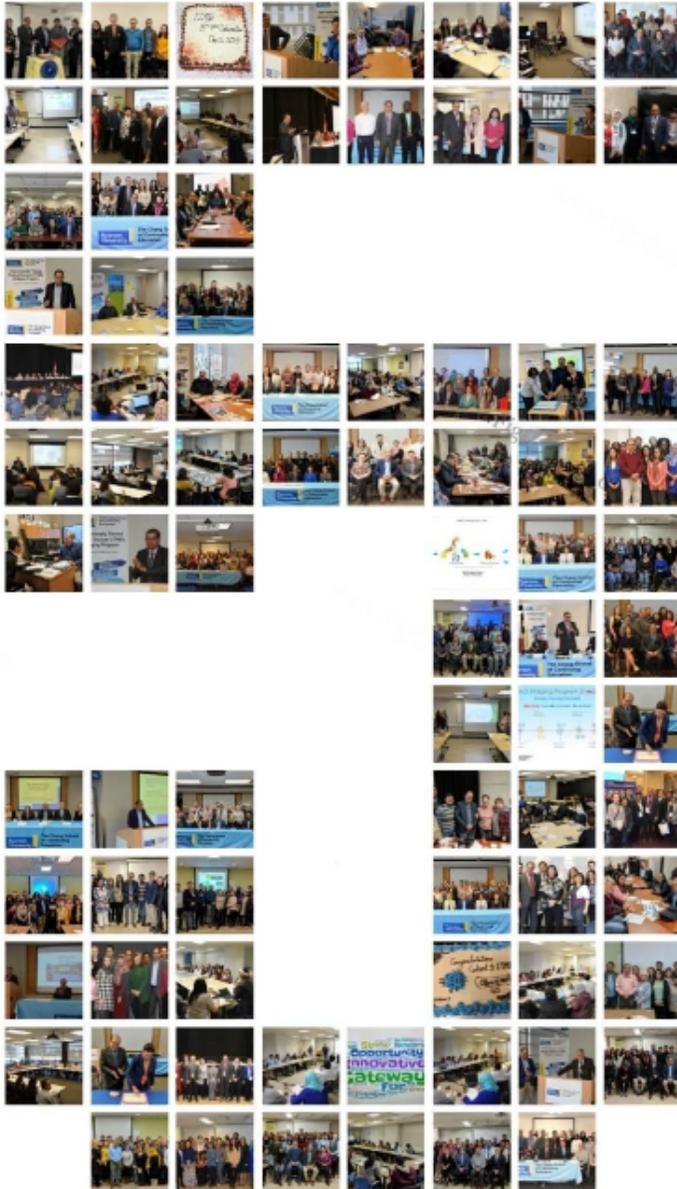
The ITMD Bridging Program offered me an amazing opportunity to refresh and adjust my knowledge on the Canadian healthcare system, as well as my skills in healthcare research and working with healthcare data and information. I gained the expertise necessary to successfully plan, carry out, and complete a research study and was provided with essential skills

for work with modern statistical and analytical tools. An important part of my professional development involved courses that gave me a deeper understanding of how to initiate, execute, and control the work of a team to successfully achieve the goals of a project in healthcare. During the program, I had an opportunity to enhance my workplace communication skills and learn more about workplace culture in healthcare. Personal contacts and conversations with the program instructors who generously shared their experience were an important piece of education and helped me better understand the subject. Overall, the program boosted my skills and knowledge in areas that are critical for a healthcare data analyst.



Nancy Gupta , cohort 3 | Research analyst, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

The ITMD Bridging Program proved to be a comprehensive course package for the new start of my career in Canada. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and his team provided the insight and guidance I needed to pursue a research career. I gained extensive knowledge about Canadian workplace culture and professional skills in utilizing research methodology in clinical research. I will always feel a special connection to the program. I am proud to be one of the ITMD alumni. I strongly recommend this program to my friends and colleagues.



ITMD Bridging Program goes global

The ITMD Bridging Program is a one-of-a-kind program in Canada that facilitates the professional development of international medical graduates. After finishing the program, many graduates either secure a job in their field or enrol in postgraduate studies. Given the success of the program, the ITMD Bridging Program shows promise for adoption in the Netherlands, where government policies can be described as restrictive toward migrants, whether highly skilled or not. This unique program provides participants with the knowledge and skills needed to secure non-licensed healthcare employment as an alternative to medical doctor licensing.

OUR SUPPORT PARTNERS





ITMDs Networking and Mix and Mingle Event July 2019

Related Events



Selected Publications

Alhawshani, S., Fumli, S., Shuvra, M. M. R., Malick, A., Dunn, L. B., Ogrodniczuk, J. S., & Monavvari, A. A. (2019). Psychotherapy for patients with mental health concerns in primary care. *Canadian Family Physician*, 65(10), 689–690.

Ahmed, S., Pervin, S., Biswas, T., Chowdhury, M. A. H., Hasnat, M. A., & Shuvra, M. M. R. (2019). Undiagnosed Isolated Systolic and Diastolic Hypertension Subtypes and Their Correlates in Bangladesh: A Nationwide Survey. *Osong Public Health and Research Perspectives*, 10(1), 12–19.
<https://doi.org/10.24171/j.phrp.2019.10.1.04>

Bhuiyan, S. (2020). Development of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) handbook digital application to promote MCH services: No one left behind to address SDGs. *The University of Toronto Medical Journal*, 97(2).

Herfs, P., Bhuiyan, S. (2020). International medical graduates (imgs) in Canada and the Netherlands: Can the Dutch learn from Canadian experiences? A survey among academic stakeholders in Canada. 4.

Luz, L. T. da, Shah, P. S., Strauss, R., Mohammed, A. A., D'Empaire, P. P., Tien, H., Nathens, A. B., Nascimento, B. (2019). Does the evidence support the importance of high transfusion ratios of plasma and platelets to red blood cells in improving outcomes in severely injured patients: A systematic review and meta-analyses. *Transfusion*, 59(11), 3337–3349.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/trf.15540>

News Coverage

Here are some examples of recent news coverage of the ITMD Bridging Program, showcasing the program's tremendous impact on our students and their role in the community.

"Bridging the gap for internationally trained medical doctors," *Ryersonian*, February 10, 2020
<https://ryersonian.ca/bridging-the-gap-for-internationally-trained-medical-doctors/>

"Program empowers internationally trained medical doctors," *Canadian Immigrant Magazine*, February 13, 2019
<https://canadianimmigrant.ca/careers-and-education/post-secondary-education/bridging-programs/program-empowers-internationally-trained-medical-doctors>

"Immigrant Doctors Get Help from Ryerson to find Work," *The Eyeopener*, November 9, 2016
<https://theeyeopener.com/2016/11/immigrant-doctors-get-help-from-ryerson-to-find-work/>

Ryerson University's G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education Completes Second Cohort of Internationally Trained Medical Doctors Bridging Program CISION, May 4 2016
<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/ryerson-universitys-g-raymond-chang-school-of-continuing-education-completes-second-cohort-of-internationally-trained-medical-doctors-bridging-program-578096151.html>

"ITMD Bridging program at Ryerson University," *Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research*, April 15, 2015
<https://www.ccghr.ca/itmd-bridging-program-at-ryerson-university/>

Bridging Program Gives Hope to Foreign Trained Medical Professionals *New Canadian Media*, May 24, 2015
<https://newcanadianmedia.ca/bridging-program-gives-hope-to-foreign-trained-medical-professionals/>

"Chang School program helps internationally trained doctors find work," *New Canadians*, February 1, 2015
<https://newcanadians.tv/chang-school-program-helps-internationally-trained-doctors-find-work/>

Marisette, S., Shuvra, M. M., Sale, J., Rezmovitz, J., Mutasingwa, D., & Maxted, J. (2020). Inconsistent role modeling of professionalism in family medicine residency: Resident perspectives from 2 Ontario sites. *Canadian Family Physician*, 66(2), e55–e61.

Luis Teodoro Da Luz, Rachel, Strauss, Ayman Abdelhadi, Pablo Perez, Avery Nathens, & Homer Tien, Barto Nascimento. (2017). Do higher transfusion ratios of FFP:RBC, PLT:RBC or FFP:PLT:RBC improve outcomes in trauma? A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Canadian Journal of Surgery*, 60(3), S35.
<https://doi.org/10.1503/cjs.005617>