

Student Testimonials



Cohort 1 – Winter 2015

“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.”

Amir Ahari (Iran)

“The ITMD bridging program is a great program rich curriculum. It provides an opportunity to understand the Canadian workplace environment and equips one with necessarily skills required in securing a position in a health service organization.”

Obinna Anyabolu (Nigeria)

“Be positive and open-minded. This program could lead to the start of a great career in health care management or research.”

Prudence Ionie Buchanan (Jamaica)

“This is the bridge between dream and reality. It is a unique learning program that provided me with the essential skills to tackle the job market.”

Amira Ahmed Hamed Eldawaiaty (Egypt)

“ITMD bridging program gave us the skills we were missing in order to achieve our goals. The best part is the practicum which is the perfect way to apply what we have learned and open the door for a lot of networking to bridge the gap between internationally trained medical doctors and employers.”

Dalya Sabry Elsanadidy (Egypt)

“The course, the way it is delivered and all the efforts taken by Professor Shafi Bhuyian and his colleagues are all exemplary and will give you the best opportunity in your future career. Be focused, learn as much as you can, and develop your network of friends and able-bodied people.”

Seyed Behnam Hashemi (Iran)

“ITMD bridging program briefly covers almost all of the essential components necessary for research in the medical field. Program components like health research methodology, fundamentals of project management, and health informatics are excellent. ‘Health Professional Communication and Leadership Skills’ (CKHS 140) is a great course. This program will help us to find opportunities in the Canadian job market.”

Md. Shahadat Hossain (Bangladesh)

“The ITMD program is a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between the medical and managerial side of health care. The program is perfectly designed and it was a wonderful opportunity to learn and network.”

Tarek A. Ibrahim (Egypt)

“I have always valued education and keep striving for more. The reputation of Ryerson University helped me determine to select the ITMD bridging program at The Chang School. The program offers an introductory preparation foundation for entry to the health care system.”

Chitra Jacob (India)

“The ITMD bridging program was very helpful and valuable for me. The expert instructor and very academic and interactive atmosphere gave me a very positive energy.”

Marzyeh Moazenzadeh (Iran)

“This bridging program at Ryerson is a unique, one-of-a-kind university-level program, created especially for internationally trained medical doctors. It offers different courses of great importance; it is convenient, fast, and efficient. I hope the knowledge and skills I have gained will enhance my employability in the job market. I strongly recommend this program for everyone who is seeking successful integration to Canadian health care field.”

Tetyana Nedoshytko (Ukraine)

“The ITMD bridging program gave me an insight into Canadian health care, the importance of information technology and its applicability in health care, and an understanding of project management and research methodology. I met wonderful and brilliant people, faculty members of the program as well as my classmates, and gained friendships for a lifetime!”

Marijana Pajic (Serbia)

“The ITMD bridging program has helped me fulfill my wish to enhance my knowledge at a Canadian level and learn new skills. It has opened the opportunity for employment and allowed me to network with incredible people. The experience was actually quite fulfilling and has helped me gain valuable skills in working with health care professionals in real life on real projects. I was able to face the problems on the ground and actually participate in some of the solutions.”

Walaa Khalid Sabih (Iraq)

“Great program; both intense and captivating. The ITMD program bridges the cultural gap and builds on leadership skills, informatics research methodology, and project management. It teaches Canadian workplace ethics and gets you job ready for the health care field in Canada. The instructors are excellent, very knowledgeable, and approachable. You will not regret you took this program; I would highly recommend it!”

Sadia Sohail (Pakistan)

Cohort 2 – Fall 2015

“The ITMD bridging program is an exceptional opportunity. It is designed to provide the skills we were missing in order to achieve employment in the Canadian health care industry. The program also offers chances for networking which could serve as a stepping stone to a great career in health care management or research.”

Alemayehu G. Abeya (Ethiopia)

“The ITMD bridging program gave me that augmented effect to look at healthcare from a public, management, and leadership prospective. It synergized my efforts and enthusiasm which resulted in a professional job opportunity halfway through the program in community mental health. It is a well-designed initiative responding to the needs of the Canadian health care sector by mobilizing highly trained international professionals.”

Hamidullah Akbari (Afghanistan)

“This bridging program is a perfectly designed one, meeting the demands of health professionals who are taking their first step in the Canadian work environment. It helps them to develop their research, communication, and management skills.”

Mohamed Said Elmokadem (Egypt)

“This is an opportunity that will definitely reshape my future! The ITMD bridging program introduced me to the world of medical research in Canada. The program design includes a wide variety of academic materials that enabled me to gain the required

knowledge on assisting and coordinating medical research in Canada.”

Silvia George (Egypt)

“The ITMD bridging program is an excellent opportunity for skilled, internationally trained doctors to launch a new career in the Canadian health care system. Well-designed courses and an interactive learning environment helped me to effectively learn and network.”

Mariam Iritsyan (Armenia)

“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.”

Siddharth Joshi (Nepal)

“The ITMD bridging program connected me to the world I was looking for in my professional field. The East has finally met the West!”

Dharmistha Kaul (India)

“The ITMD bridging program helped me to reclaim my abilities in research, health informatics, and project management. The communication and leadership theme in this program provided a valuable perspective on how to apply my skills in the North American work culture, and it already started to reflect positively on my work. It was not only a bridging program but also a valuable meeting place of motivating colleagues and great teachers.”

Amila Piyathilake (Sri Lanka)

“The ITMD bridging program gave me the opportunity to update my knowledge in my career field. It is a unique source of exchanging knowledge between internationally trained doctors who have vast experience and skills in their specialized fields. The courses offered by the program are required for any professional working in any health care setting.”

Arifa Rahman (Bangladesh)

“This bridging program helped me enhance the knowledge and skills that I have developed throughout my career. It also developed both my personal network and professional experiences by interacting with top students and teachers who are from diverse backgrounds.”

Mosieur Rahman (Bangladesh)

“The ITMD bridging program is an intense and highly effective program with powerful tools and amazing teachers. It opened the door to new opportunities and gave us hope.”

Nisrine Salameh (Lebanon)

“In order to succeed, we must diversify our learning and train for future job opportunities. The ITMD bridging program is a program that speeds up the learning curve in the field of clinical research and empowers physicians with new and exciting possibilities.”

Noma Salman (Syria)

“The ITMD bridging program offers the right orientation and networking opportunities to integrate students from diverse cultural backgrounds into the Canadian workplace. In addition to scientific research and project management skills, intense communication training is a key determining factor to be successful in any work environment, and the program provides this.”

Prateek Sardana (India)

“This unique program built up and polished my skills and gave me a great opportunity to network. I felt lucky that I applied and got selected. It is a very mind-opening program and it offers a starting point to explore the opportunities in the Canadian health care field.”

Haifeng (Frank) Yu (China)

Cohort 3 – Spring/Summer 2016

“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.”

Ayman Abdelhady (Egypt)

“The ITMD bridging program is an exceptional opportunity to integrate into the Canadian health system. The great design and the excellent instructors help you to clearly understand the concepts of medical research and project management. The practicum provides the chance to apply this knowledge and to prove your skills in the real world. Furthermore, the program offers favourable circumstances for professional networking in a completely positive atmosphere.”

Omar Abdelmonem (Egypt)

“If you feel stuck in your professional path, the ITMD bridging program is an appealing opportunity and starting point to further widen your knowledge, explore alternative chances, build your networking, and boost your skills.”

Mira Abdelshahid (Egypt)

“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.”

Nour Amiri (Iran)

“The ITMD bridging program exceeded my expectations in many regards, especially in the depth of information supplied and the access to networking opportunities in research and health management areas. It was a pleasure being a part of this program.”

Baskaran Annalingam (Sri Lanka)

“The ITMD bridging program is a unique program designed to help ITMDs utilize their skills and understand the fundamentals of research and health care management in Canada. It provides a wide knowledge base incorporating theoretical knowledge from sessions and also hands-on skills from the practicum.”

Ibrahim Elsharawi (Egypt)

“I have been very fortunate in getting accepted to ITMD bridging program. The comprehensive course curriculum of the program has provided me the necessary skills and knowledge to understand the Canadian health care system, and enough courage and motivation to pursue a career in health research in Canada.”

Nancy Gupta (India)

“The ITMD bridging program is a great way for ITMDs to learn about the Canadian workplace culture and how to face some of the common hurdles we faced in Canada. It also provides the tools required to successfully navigate the Canadian job market. The instructors and staff are all very supportive. It is a great program.”

Habeeb Khan (KSA/Canada)

“The ITMD bridging program is one platform that guides internationally trained medical doctors to explore multiple venues. Through its intelligently designed curriculum and practicum placement, it equips ITMDs with skills and networking options needed to get a foothold in the Canadian health care system. I wish this program had existed years ago when I came to Canada, but, it's never too late!”

Nazish Malik (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program has offered me the unique opportunity to strengthen my necessary skills for the Canadian job market. It also expands my professional networking through practicum. Lastly, I feel blessed getting to know my wonderful classmates.”

Nam Nguyen (Vietnam)

“I feel privileged to be a part of the third cohort of the ITMD bridging program at The Chang School. The courses are well-structured, efficiently delivered, and professionally useful. It helps to gain the knowledge, skills, and attitude essential to succeed in a multicultural workplace. It is also a wonderful opportunity to network. It offers a new beginning to explore the opportunities in the Canadian health care sector.”

Abu Sadat Mohammad Nurunnabi (Bangladesh)

“As an internationally trained medical doctor, I found this bridging program to be a very practical and fruitful learning opportunity. It helped me to solidify my knowledge and perspective of health research and health management in the context of the Canadian health system. It was a blessing that I got accepted in this program and I would definitely recommend this program to other medical doctors trained abroad.”

Saloomah Oudji (Iran)

“This unique program comes with new and exciting possibilities for reshaping and transforming the skills and knowledge of internationally trained medical doctors through

education and practicum experiences necessary for developing a career in health care research and management. This program has helped me in further developing my skills and knowledge in health research, management, leadership, and communication.”

Nayeemur Rahman (Bangladesh)

“For me, the ITMD bridging program was a gate of opportunities. It helped me re-explore my interests, connect to people, and acquire new skills. It truly bridged my cultural gaps and built my confidence to pursue a satisfying alternative career.”

Imad El Sadek (Palestine)

“This program has solidified my knowledge and allowed me to acquire skills that will strengthen my chance of success in the future. It has also introduced me to subjects which have further developed my perspective on the knowledge of medicine.”

Zalmay Sahak (Afghanistan)

“Through the ITMD bridging program, I gained a solid understanding of health informatics, research methodology, and project management. The program provided me with the knowledge and skills to work across health care sectors and collaborate with others effectively.”

Saima Saleem (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program is a morale booster for me. I was enlightened with additional knowledge that was not only helpful in my current job, but it broadened my horizon for future jobs. In the process, I befriended 19 amazing personalities from around the globe. The able leadership of the program coordinator with amalgamation of excellent faculties is what makes this Ryerson University program truly unique.”

Prakash Shah (India)

“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.”

Mizanur Shuvra (Bangladesh)

“I felt very honoured to be selected as a participant of the ITMD bridging program, and as the program advanced, I realized that I was also very fortunate; this is a one-of-a-kind bridging program for internationally trained medical doctors. The program provides professional development which merges the hard skills of the ITMDs with the soft skills needed to succeed in the Canadian workplace. It is a point of entry into the Canadian health care system and an avenue for networking with fellow ITMDs, while gaining relevant experience through the practicum. It is a well-rounded program and I strongly recommend it to all ITMDs in Canada.”

Nkiruka Uzonwanne (Nigeria)

Cohort 4 – Fall 2016

“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.”

Shiva Barati (Iran)

“The ITMD bridging program at Ryerson University is a very unique program that is tailored to the needs of international medical graduates. It helps us bridge the gap between our previous experience and the different aspects of the Canadian health care system, thereby acting as a stepping stone to fulfill our dreams. The detailed curriculum provides very good theoretical knowledge and practical skills which would help with furthering our health care career in Canada. I would like to thank Dr. Bhuiyan and the entire faculty for their constant support and motivation. Through this program, I have also made some wonderful friends and developed my networking abilities. I would highly recommend this program for anyone who is looking to successfully integrate into the non-licensed sector of the Canadian health care system.”

Deena (India)

“The ITMD bridging program polishes one’s knowledge in a variety of high-yield subjects relevant to non-licensed health care disciplines. The courses have allowed me to attain a better understanding of the functions, operations, and potentialities of the Canadian health care system. All the instructors are extremely knowledgeable and forthcoming. Additionally, through the practicum placement, I hope to develop key workplace skills that will allow smooth transitioning into the Canadian professional market. I cannot thank Dr. Bhuiyan enough for launching this initiative; his guidance and encouragement has positively impacted my outlook towards my professional future in Canada.”

Sabeen Ehsan (UAE)

“Attending the ITMD bridging program taught me that being open-minded, positive, focused, and patient builds resilience; with this, we can exceed all expectations. The intense curriculum has enriched me with the skills needed to effectively integrate into the Canadian health care system and, even more so, created a platform for networking and building wonderful relationships.”

Onize Ekome (Nigeria)

“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 Canadian health care system. All the efforts taken by Professor Shafi Bhuiyan and his colleagues have motivated me to move forward with great confidence.”

Rijwana Haque (Bangladesh)

“I appreciate joining such an outstanding professionally designed program and consider myself so fortunate to be a member of the ITMD bridging program family. The instructors are so knowledgeable, yet so humble and supportive. I would like to thank Ryerson University for their sincere effort in helping ITMDs enhance their knowledge and widen their scopes in an interesting, applicable, and effective way. It was a pleasure meeting and working with my instructors and classmates.”

Hany Ibrahim (Egypt)

“Being a student in ITMD bridging program is a great learning opportunity that paves the path to a deeper understanding of the workplace culture and environment in Canadian health care. The program also allows the opportunity to acquire up-to-date knowledge necessary for successful career building.”

Andrey Kildyushov (Russia)

“The ITMD bridging program covers very important topics in the Canadian health care system. It offers well-structured courses in health research methodology, health informatics, project management, and communication skills. It helped me to update my knowledge and gain new skills that are needed for my future career.”

Mahnaz Mansouri (Iran)

“When I closed the door of my previous life as a medical doctor in my country because I moved to Canada, the ITMD bridging program was the other door that opened for me. It might not be the perfect solution to integrate oneself in the Canadian workforce being a physician, but it was the best solution an international medical graduate (IMG) could find in this entirely new world. The ITMD program made me refocus and see my other worth as a physician and what I could contribute in this new country that is Canada.”

Darlene Montes Fetalvero (Philippines)

“A rich curriculum with highly experienced and friendly instructors, make the ITMD bridging program a unique one with exceptional learning opportunities. It gives a broad view of the Canadian health care system and workplace environment while filling the gaps that almost all IMGs need. It also provides a stepping stone for further advancement towards a future career.”

Marco Morcos (Egypt)

“The ITMD bridging program is an innovative and intensive professional development program specially designed for highly qualified immigrant doctors in Canada. This unique, comprehensive program is providing the necessary skills and knowledge to learn about the Canadian health care system, as well as encouraging and motivating doctors to pursue a career in health research in Canada.”

Naila Naz (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program helped me develop my skills in project management, health informatics, research methodology, and professional communications. By participating in this program, I became more confident in showcasing my talents in the Canadian workplace setting. It is also a great avenue for international medical graduates to collaborate ideas and projects to help improve health care processes in

Canada.”

Sophia Marie Pagtakhan Wong (Philippines)

“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.”

Amal Rezk (Egypt)

“The ITMD bridging program is a valuable opportunity to learn more about medical research and bioinformatics. It provides unique courses in professional communication and project management. There are also extremely useful workshops for the participants to become familiar with Canadian workplace and fundamental strategies to find an appropriate career.”

Navid A. Roozbahany (Iran)

“When I reflect on my 12 weeks in The Chang School’s ITMD bridging program at Ryerson University, I conclude that the experience not only made me a better researcher, but it also prepared me in unpredictable ways for my career. Through classes and workshops with incredibly supportive classmates and professors, who were nothing short of champions, I was challenged to discover a voice I didn’t know I had, a leader I didn’t know I would be, and an epidemiologist I have to unleash. It was a wonderful time in my life and one of the best educational experiences I’ve ever had.”

Aimen Salem (Libya)

“The ITMD bridging program is a well-designed program. It is planned keeping in view the Canadian health market, needs of the ITMDs, and emerging trends in the health sector to equip ITMDs with the latest knowledge and skills to play a productive role in the Canadian workforce. This course has helped me to brush up my knowledge and expertise and taught me soft skills like the Canadian norms, etiquettes, and culture in the workplace. This is really helping me to integrate into Canadian society. I fully recommend the program to my fellow ITMDs.”

Syed Jamal Shah (Pakistan)

“‘Even in darkness light dawns for those who believe,’ and I found the ITMD bridging program at Ryerson University is the magic stone of its kind in making an innovative and challenging track for IMGs. Its professional teamwork and interacting course curriculum upgraded my soft skills. Linked in between pride and practice also prepared me to find my second career in the global health networks. I would love to contribute my effort to upgrading our ITMD platform whenever required.”

Ali Shams (Bangladesh)

“This program exceeded my expectations and has taught me the professional skills that I was lacking in order to secure a place in the Canadian workplace. It is a great

opportunity to network with so many health care professionals from different parts of the world. The instructors are amazing and committed to helping us ITMDs find a place in this field.”

Rabia Shariff (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program is amazing in the sense that it has beautifully accommodated all appropriate components in an interactive learning setup. The program is truly helping the doctors from different countries to sharpen their knowledge and get accustomed with various aspects of the Canadian health care system. The thing I like most about this program is that it is creating a platform where ITMDs can share their experience, help each other, and, above all, get the inspiration to contribute in a positive way with the encouragement from the highly resourceful instructors.”

Nilufar Shireen (Bangladesh)

“If I had to name the most exceptional experience I have lived since I have come to Canada, it would be being a member of the ITMD family. From meeting great people, to learning practical knowledge, to developing hard and soft skills, and above all, to providing a true bridge for me to integrate into and contribute to the scientific community.”

Wayel Zanjir (Syria)

Cohort 5 – Spring/Summer 2017

“I am very fortunate to have participated in this unique program. I have gained valuable knowledge from highly qualified professors and instructors. I have learned how to transfer key skills to be well prepared for the Canadian job market. Furthermore, the ITMD bridging program provided me with important tools to be successful in the future. Do not think twice about applying to this program – your future will successfully start from here.”

Suulaf al Mufti (Syria)

“The ITMD bridging program enhanced my potential, preparing me to work professionally in Canada. Despite all my relevant experiences, this bridging program enriched my expertise, filling out the most important deficiency – the Canadian context. This unique program made me confident and prepared me for my public health career in academia and research in Canada.”

Sadia Afreen (Bangladesh)

“I have had a very rewarding experience as a student in the ITMD bridging program at Ryerson University. The exceptional course delivery methods used by dedicated instructors have surpassed my expectations. My foundational knowledge of health research has been greatly strengthened and I have acquired relevant skills to help me succeed as a researcher. Most importantly, I am gaining relevant insights into the Canadian health research system and am being presented with meaningful opportunities for networking.”

Catherine Allen Ayodabo (Nigeria)

“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.”

Mohammad Biswas (Bangladesh)

“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.”

Maryam Danesh (Iran)

“The ITMD bridging program is the only one of its kind in Canada. The program strengthened my knowledge in research to suit the Canadian setting, opened the path to a practicum placement at a centre of excellence, and certainly became the key to my professional career in Canada.”

Ethige Prasantha De Silva (Sri Lanka)

“The ITMD bridging program provides the essential skills and knowledge needed to gain employment in health research positions in Canada. This program provides extremely helpful and informative courses. The instructors are able to make complex concepts simpler. I effectively learned in a few months what others usually learn in years. Now I have a much better understanding of research settings in Canada. This program opens the door for a lot of networking to establish connections, and bridges the gap between employers and ITMDs. It may be a bridge between me and everything that makes my dreams come true.”

Mohaddeseh (Moha) Gholizadesh (Iran)

“‘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.”

Aisha Hamdam (Pakistan)

“I was fortunate to join the ITMD bridging program at Ryerson University. The program enhanced my knowledge and skills in many areas that are needed to secure a job in the non-licensed health sector in Canada. The instructors are very knowledgeable, experienced, and helpful. Also, my colleagues were extremely friendly and supportive. It is a great advantage that the program helps students secure a practicum placement in

leading healthcare organizations to apply their skills in the workplace.”

Karim Yousry Megaly Kerolos (Egypt)

“The ITMD bridging program is truly unique in its concept, design, and mission. It provided me with an opportunity to understand and connect to the Canadian health sector. Carefully structured curriculum enriched my knowledge in health research and prepared me to meet the needs of the health sector. The practicum placement is an opportunity to connect with prominent healthcare professionals at leading Canadian institutions. I see this is as an important stepping stone to reach the next level in my career. The ITMD bridging program is respected and valued, mainly because of the tireless work of Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan.”

Rakesh Kumar (India)

“I was looking for an opportunity to fill my skills gap and the ITMD bridging program was the best fit for me. The program provides an excellent practical approach for integrating internationally trained medical doctors into the Canadian healthcare system. The instructors are really knowledgeable and cooperative. Throughout the program, I cannot emphasize enough on Dr. Bhuiyan's continuous support, motivation, and guidance. Expanding this program can greatly benefit the highly skilled professionals and Canada as well.”

Youssef Metry (Egypt)

“The ITMD bridging program content was extremely valuable and interesting; the instructors were knowledgeable and encouraging. Interacting with colleagues from all over the globe was a great way of gaining new perspectives. The program helped me to broaden my outlook and boosted my confidence through the skills I gained related to health research in Canada. The opportunity to network with health professionals in the Canadian healthcare system was very valuable. It has been a life changing opportunity and I am on my way to better integrate and actively participate in Canada's promising health workforce.”

Omima Hassan Abdelwahab Mohidin (Sudan)

“The ITMD bridging program is a unique way for health care professionals to connect to hospital networks and other prominent health sector organizations based in the Toronto area. It also serves as a guide to positively reshape one's knowledge, thus allowing ITMD candidates to implement skills they learned to the Canadian workforce.”

Ayeshah Mohiuddin (Bahrain)

“Enrolling into the ITMD bridging program brought one crucial insight to me: the importance of upgrading and gaining new skills through Canadian education. This program is specifically tailored to provide skills required for ITMDs to transition successfully into the Canadian healthcare system. I believe the components of this program are not only for attaining a healthcare job, but these are essential skills gained for life to excel throughout one's career.”

Nabiha Batool Musavi (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program paves a path along a previously obstacle-ridden road in navigating the Canadian healthcare system. It truly brings out individual potential of doctors in respect to their non-clinical skills. The cohesive teaching methods and qualified staff help students to analyze their management, research, and academic skills and apply them to a foreign healthcare system. It has enabled me to obtain a different perspective on healthcare and how to work in it through departments other than clinical. The practicum placement component is promising as it enables us to find different areas of interest and networking prospects.”

Rachen Ninan (India)

“The ITMD bridging program not only provides the essential knowledge and skills required to enter the non-licensed job market, but also gives students the insight, energy, and self-confidence needed to succeed. Nothing is impossible, as Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan always says.”

Seyed Hossein Saadat (Iran)

“The ITMD bridging program provides an excellent opportunity for foreign-trained medical professionals to learn about the Canadian healthcare system. Through a series of carefully selected preparatory courses, students learn how to immerse themselves into this system. It provides a platform for integrating ITMDs into the Canadian healthcare sector by linking them with the right opportunities through internships with multiple diverse organizations ranging from hospitals to not for profit organizations. I highly recommend the ITMD bridging program for new healthcare professionals in Ontario.”

Ovwe Oteri Sowho (Nigeria)

“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.”

Emal Stanizai (Afghanistan)

Cohort 6 – Fall 2017

“I was struggling to start a career in the Canadian healthcare system. That was until I came across the ITMD bridging program; I had no doubt that it was exactly what I was looking for. The program provides internationally trained medical professionals with crucial skills and knowledge in research fundamentals, project management, and professional communication and development. It also gives them the chance to apply the new knowledge in medical settings through the practicum placement. The instructors are very supportive and ready to help and guide when needed. It is a

precious opportunity to learn, network, and increase your employability, and I definitely recommend it to every international medical graduate.”

Yossra Abdallateef (Libya)

“The ITMD bridging program has provided me with an enriching environment for building on my skills in research methodology, health informatics, project management, and communication techniques. While I expected this program to expand my academic knowledge in these areas, I found that it also gave me things far more important; the proficient and friendly instructors created an atmosphere that actively involved every participant in a collaborative way. I find myself fortunate to have been part of this program and can already see the bright future that it is offering by integration into the Canadian healthcare field.”

Ahmad Al-Araji (Iraq)

“Just when I was at a crossroads, the ITMD bridging program came across to polish my skills to fit the Canadian work culture. The combination of subjects like research, information technology, project management, and professional communication are the secret recipe to integrate the internationally trained medical doctor into the health sector in Canada. I like the professors and how helpful they are. I am glad to have joined this program for it showed me different aspects of health roles I could take to benefit the Canadian health sector.”

Hiba Alzubaidi (Iraq)

“The ITMD bridging program offers the crucial components and awareness mandatory for a medical professional of the present and future. With tremendous efforts from Dr. Bhuiyan, lecturers, and the rest of the team, this program has set firm grounds. I find myself privileged to be a part of such a positive, enthusiastic, and goal-driven group of colleagues and teachers. The program has taken me forward and opened doors towards a broad spectrum of healthcare-related fields (e.g., research, health informatics, and project management). The ITMD bridging program provides us with the right preparation and opportunity and guides us on the road to success.”

Marium Anwar (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program is an outstanding and intense program that incorporates tools for integration and success in the Canadian healthcare environment. This well-structured program boasts of medical professionals with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, the director of the program, and the lecturers are very dedicated, passionate, and committed to the success of all the participants. Anyone serious about advancing their career in the healthcare industry will benefit immensely from attending this program.”

Abiodun Babayeju (South Africa)

“Ryerson University’s ITMD bridging holds a mélange of health professionals from all parts of the world, creating a pool of wide and varied experiences that are shared in a camaraderie among peers and colleagues, with a relentless and endless discussion of what is the Canadian way of doing things, respectful and helpful with each other. This is a fun and collegial way of learning from top-caliber professors, evolving and managing

change real time as the dashboards and scorecards we learn, both dynamic and evidenced based. I am truly honored to have taken part in this program thanks to Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan who spearheaded it. Preparing ITMDs to take part in the different roles in the healthcare system is an equitable way of making use of valuable human resources to take part in aspects that would change the Canadian healthcare system. I strongly recommend the ITMD bridging program to other ITMDs and to policymakers – a part of the sustainable development goal in healthcare of Canada.”

Venus Benigno (Philippines)

“The ITMD bridging program at The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education is literally a bridge between the internationally trained health professionals and the non-licensed health services in Canada. It is a well-designed and organized program that gives a new hope for all ITMDs. We are all proud ITMDs and very much thankful to Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan for creating the platform for us. His dynamic leadership and insight into the healthcare system is the asset for us to achieve the best possible opportunities in a non-clinical health environment. This is a great place to be for all ITMDs, and I am proud to be a part of it.”

Rashed Choudhury (Bangladesh)

“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.”

Neelam Dehal (India)

“The Internationally Trained Medical Doctors (ITMD) Bridging Program at Ryerson is a window to the world of opportunities for international medical graduates (IMGs). Thanks to Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and other lecturers, this program is perfectly designed to enhance participants’ academic skills and to help them in gaining relevant training in research methodology, health informatics, and program management. Furthermore, the practicum placement facilitates exposure to the Canadian healthcare system and Canadian workplace which provides a unique chance for ITMDs to succeed in finding non-licensed healthcare jobs in Canada. ITMDs should stay positive and keep trying.”

Hamidreza Goodarzynejad (Iran)

“The ITMD bridging program is a unique opportunity to gain extraordinary skills for advancement and success in non-regulated healthcare careers in Canada. Under the cable leadership of Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and his team of highly qualified instructors, this program has broadened my horizons and helped me gain exceptional skill sets required to excel in the highly competitive Canadian workplace environment. The practicum placement also facilitated in me applying my expertise into real life practice. I would

highly recommend this program to ITMDs who are highly motivated and willing to pursue careers in public health research in Canada.”

Nazish Gul (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program is a unique and life-changing learning opportunity; I find that its excellent curriculum bridges gaps in medical and public health education. This program advances participants' existing skills with updated knowledge, training, and networking options. In addition, it provides a practicum placement in a Canadian healthcare environment. The most amazing thing is the positivity and enthusiasm that is present throughout the program from very motivating instructors and helpful colleagues who become true, lifelong friends. I feel privileged to be one of the sixth cohort of this great program and I would strongly recommend it to all ITMDs in Canada.”

Maged Micheal (Egypt)

“The ITMD bridging program is a hope for all international doctors who are striving to enter into the Canadian medical system. I am honored and proud to be a part of this unique program that not only shapes us and brings us to the best form but also facilitates the successful transition of international medical graduates to Canadian standards and expectations. This program is not about testing your knowledge on evaluations and exams; it is about reaching our potential as ITMDs and identifying our strengths and abilities in order to contribute our knowledge and experience to the research and health management sector while creating a significant impact in the medical system which experts have trained us all so efficiently. I sincerely thank Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan for his continued support and motivation throughout the program and I thank the professors for their great help and guidance. One great lesson we all learn is to study as a family with love and humor, while sharing our emotions as we grown as better people. The ITMD bridging program is a great opportunity to grow and lay the foundation for a path towards success.”

Samson Moses (India)

“The ITMD bridging program is a key connection to navigate health-related work environments in Canada. It highlights participants' potential and showcases areas of expertise. It gave me great insights into using medical knowledge to explore opportunities beyond clinical medicine. This has been helpful in strengthening medical knowledge, academic research, building career, and pursuing my dream. The well-organized curriculum, cohesive instructing methods and well-trained staff brings out the best in each student. I would like to thank our wonderful mentor Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, and strongly recommend this program to internationally trained health professionals who wish to excel in their future career goals.”

Dharshika Muthuthevar (Canada)

“The ITMD bridging program, as its name indicates, is the bridge between international doctors and the Canadian healthcare system. It's a unique combination of subjects that enables you to incorporate yourself into the Canadian workplace and do so successfully. I am proud to be a part of the ITMD family! I got my practicum placement at Michael Garron Hospital while still a student in the ITMD bridging program and that

actually shows its success and Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan's hard work for ITMDs.”

Fatima Naeem (Pakistan)

“Being part of the internationally trained medical doctors (ITMD) bridging program has been a true privilege. Meeting professionals from different countries and sharing the same dream, turns us into a team and a family; together we embrace one common objective, to be part of the Canadian health system. The curriculum contains important topics to guide us towards our goals. I feel fortunate to be part of this team, which I consider my fraternity of professionals in Canada.”

Jose R. Rodriguez (El Salvador)

“For me, the ITMD bridging program is unique and a real bridge to fulfil the gap between international medical graduates and the Canadian healthcare system. It does not only help us to acquire knowledge about non-licensed healthcare disciplines, but it also help us to get experience through work placements. Furthermore, participants discover and deeply understand the Canadian medical culture through various workshops. I really appreciate Dr. Shafi and The Chang School for their continuous support and inspiration. Through this program, I have also made some wonderful friends and developed my networking abilities which are vital for employment in the Canadian job market.”

Wagma Saad (Afghanistan)

“The ITMD bridging program is a great opportunity for internationally trained medical doctors to launch a new career in the Canadian healthcare system. The program consists of health informatics and data management, health research methodology, project management for health professionals, and health professional communications and leadership skills, all of which is a great program for success in Canadian job market. This program offers the right direction for future job opportunities and networking with health professionals in the Canadian healthcare system and with students from diverse cultural backgrounds. This program is very valuable for me and I strongly recommend to other ITMDs.”

Hitoshi Sawaoka (Japan)

“The ITMD bridging program is a unique program that provides opportunities for learning and networking. It is an invaluable experience that brings together essential academic and professional elements necessary for successful integration into the Canadian health sector. I am indeed hopeful that new and exciting opportunities lie ahead for all of us empowered ITMDs.”

Michelle Sumner-Williams (Guyana)

“The ITMD bridging program is a comprehensive one-stop program which provides strong bases to internationally trained medical doctors for a fresh start in a new country. This program has prepared me to utilize my 10+ years of international public health experience in the Canadian job market. It provides a platform where one can showcase and share knowledge with other members of the ITMD family. It's a robust program, managed by an inspirational leader and highly qualified instructors.”

Mubariz Tariq (Afghanistan)

“The integration to the Canadian workforce is a challenge for every ITMD. The ITMD bridging program provides a unique and invaluable training opportunity to gain relevant experience into Canada’s healthcare system. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and the professors are always willing to help. My peers are now close friends and encourage me to keep going. This program is a great thing for ITMDs looking for new opportunities in public health, health informatics, and research.”

Jorge Telchi (Bolivia)

“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.”

Dilusha Thiyagaratnam (Sri Lanka)

Cohort 7 – Spring/Summer 2018

“The ITMD bridging program is an innovative program that really bridges gaps between ITMDs and the Canadian healthcare environment. Under the leadership of Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and his qualified team, ITMDs have an excellent opportunity to become familiar with the fundamentals and principles of the Canadian workplace and society. Moreover, the diverse environment created by bringing highly skilled doctors from different countries together makes the program strong and competitive. Sharing experiences and learning with colleagues in the same circumstances enriches the program and makes it attractive. The continuous support of Dr. Bhuiyan in the practicum placement is a cornerstone of the program. I felt privileged to participate in the program and recommend it to all ITMDs in Canada.”

Miriam Abdelmalek (Egypt)

“The ITMD bridging program is a unique one – not only in Canada, but also in the world. This program is one of the best and unique experiences for internationally trained medical doctors. To be successful and to integrate into the Canadian healthcare system, everyone must start correctly. This wonderful program is like a rescue ship in a great ocean. By establishing and managing this program, training and supporting the participants, and choosing the best lecturers for the courses, Professor Shafi Bhuiyan, the director of the program, has made it an innovative one that can guarantee the success of serious participants. With the support of Professor Bhuiyan and his team, you feel that you can achieve your goals in Canada. As he has said many times: ‘Always moving forward.’ I really recommend this program to any international trained medical doctor.”

Susan Akbaroghli (Iran)

“The whole ITMD bridging program is a fabulous journey full of success and achievements. You start it as a shy doctor with no experience in Canada, and you finish with a wide range of options that make you an excellent candidate who fits wherever the trip of life takes you. On every single bump, stop, or turn throughout that journey, you will always find the right guidance from experienced mentors in the program. All that starts from the moment you meet Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan.”

Hani Haitham Alshbat (Syria)

“The ITMD bridging program offers a life-changing curriculum designed for international medical doctors and other health professionals living in Canada as permanent residents and Canadian citizens to successfully integrate into the Canadian healthcare system. It encompasses modules and topics such as research methodology, health informatics, and program management, and it also provides a practicum placement which will prepare ITMDs for employment in the non-licensed healthcare industry. ITMDs are advantaged by and fortunate to be a part of this program, which will ultimately benefit them for further integration into the Canadian healthcare setting and environment.”

Rolly S. Benigno (Philippines)

“Many people have doubts when coming to Canada as international medical graduates. The ITMD bridging program opens doors for those looking to offer their experience and expertise through non-licensed positions within healthcare in Canada. The courses equip participants with tools needed to gain entry into different positions in the healthcare workforce as well as training in certain research modalities. Being part of this program also allows training in common Canadian workplace ethics and provides networking opportunities that would be otherwise difficult to attain. The benefits of this program can be attained in a relatively short period of time, making this a valuable way to gain access to the Canadian healthcare workforce.”

Adam Benjamin (Trinidad and Tobago)

“The ITMD bridging program provides the fundamentals that you need to know about the Canadian healthcare environment. Through outstanding professors and Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan’s enthusiasm, they will guide you to expressing the best of your potential while gaining new skills to incorporate into working in Canadian healthcare. I highly recommend the ITMD program to any international healthcare professional who would like to integrate into the Canadian healthcare system.”

Glenis Berroa (Dominican Republic)

“The ITMD bridging program provides an invaluable opportunity to familiarize yourself with the Canadian healthcare system, particularly the research sector. I strongly recommend it to all internationally trained healthcare professionals who are passionate about advancing their careers in Canada.”

Mandana Chitsanan (Iran)

“The ITMD bridging program is a one-of-a-kind program. It not only focuses on theory but also prepares students with practical, real-world experience. Moreover, the professors are extremely motivated, and the level of support and encouragement you get from them is invaluable and unparalleled. Overall, the ITMD program challenges you

to step out of your comfort zone, push your boundaries, and explore your interests in health research and healthcare management positions in Canada. Last but not least, thank you to all my professors and colleagues for an amazing and collaborative/interactive learning experience at Ryerson University!”

Orville Gundran (Philippines)

“The ITMD bridging program is a great bridging program for internationally trained medical doctors. This bridging program especially fills those gaps which ITMDs face in coming to Canada and allow them to continue their health-related profession in non-licensed jobs. Dr. Shafi Buiyan, who is the co-founder and director of the program, and the other mentors are experienced and dedicated, and they play a great role in the success of this program.”

Mirwais Halimi (Afghanistan)

“The ITMD bridging program is an ingenious way of bringing together some of the finest talents and intelligence and polishing them to match a Canadian workplace in need of their skills. Migrating to a new country has its challenges, and the biggest of those is finding an identity for yourself in the workplace. This program not only boosts confidence for immigrant professionals, but it also teaches them new skills that are much needed in non-licensed health care jobs in Canada. It provides guidance in every aspect – from building resumés and writing appropriate cover letters to learning essentials of project management and SPSS. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, the program director, is always available – quite literally, 24/7 – to help and facilitate you in every way possible. Through this program, a lot of workplaces, some of which might even be quite inaccessible to immigrants otherwise, open their doors. This is a much-needed program in very crucial times.”

Maha Awaiz Hassan (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program fosters an unparalleled collaborative environment in which internationally trained MDs can learn about the Canadian health system. Through an innovative and fast-paced curriculum, my fellow cohort participants and I have had the opportunity to develop several research ideas and gain practical skills in research communication, the use of statistical packages such as SPSS, and the delivery of scientific presentations. Through an ever-expanding network of partner organizations, ITMDs are able to apply their clinic research and systems innovation skills as part of a practicum project.”

Manish Kar (India)

“After coming to Canada as a new immigrant/ITMD, I was completely lost in my career path. I didn’t know where to start. Medical licensing seemed like an extremely overwhelming goal. I needed something to secure my place in Canadian healthcare. The ITMD bridging program founded by Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan was the right platform for me. I was very excited when I was accepted for this program. The classes are basically hands-on training, and the teachers make sure you take part in activities. I am very much looking forward to my practicum, which could aid in my Canadian healthcare employment search.”

Amina Mahmood (Bangladesh)

“The ITMD bridging program is a wonderful opportunity for international doctors. It provides a friendly yet professional environment for you to build your network with the best health care professionals in Canada. The expert and dedicated teachers help you develop the necessary skills for success in Canada. The program director, Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, is a supportive and open-minded leader with novel ideas who helps you find your voice.”

Zahra Masroori (Iran)

“The program is a platform for capacity building and provides an opportunity for internationally trained doctors to gain experience and skills in a Canadian setting.”

Oluwadhanushi Olukoya (Nigeria)

“When I came here with my Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), my ambitions soared when I was made aware by the ITMD bridging program that there were several healthcare career opportunities other than clinical practice. After my practicum at Mount Sinai Hospital, I was hired and have continued to work there. I am also the charter secretary for the Toronto Global Doctors – Lion’s Club International, founded in 2018, and we are already active in the community. With the number of graduates growing, there continues to be more diversely experienced medical professionals who I can easily approach when I need advice or support, including our instructors and Program Manager, Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan. In my opinion, this program is imperative for any international medical graduate (IMG) to understand the Canadian culture and workplace expectations. It has helped my career and I recommend it for anyone who recognizes their professional potential, but is not sure how to reach it.”

Sara Pathan (India)

“The ITMD bridging program is a wonderful platform for trained professionals from different countries to explore Canadian healthcare workplace ethics and practices. It provides an opportunity to learn and grow with your classmates, and the instructors are perfectly trained to help students understand the curriculum.”

Syeda Qasim (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program is an empowering and extraordinary program which offers comprehensive and integrated courses for medical doctors from various continents who aspire to learn and work in the Canadian health sector. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, co-founder and program lead, and his very excited, efficient, and passionate team of instructors provide a collegial learning environment. This program gave me a platform to polish my skills to fit the Canadian health system and achieve my career success in Canada.”

Anbumalar Santhosam (India)

“I came to believe the ITMD bridging program is not only meant to engage non-licensed international medical doctors in the Canadian healthcare system and market, but that it can also be considered as a success model to be implemented at both Canadian and worldwide levels.”

Mahmoud Shaheen (Palestine)

“The ITMD bridging program is a very inventive and innovative program for doctors from different countries with wide ranges of experience who wants to work in the Canadian healthcare system in non-licensed jobs. This very short program enables you to learn and practise the hidden talents and abilities you have, and helps you to brush up on your experience in the field. Anyone who is serious about pursuing a career in the health care industry will benefit from the program. The program director, Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, has such positive energy in motivating and helping you to find a career in a health-related field. Instructors and professors are so cooperative that they literally hold your hand and make you learn things. This is a highly recommended program for international graduates.”

Muhammad Imran Sohail (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program at Ryerson is a great opportunity for international medical graduates to polish their knowledge and skills and increase their chances of getting involved in the competitive Canadian healthcare job market. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and the other lecturers are very knowledgeable and dedicated in trying to support and help students. Practicum placement, which is a part of this program, helps graduates apply what they have learned in a real environment and also learn a lot about Canadian workplace culture. I would highly recommend this program to ITMDs who are highly motivated and willing to pursue careers in public health research in Canada.”

Somasuriyam Thirumal (Sri Lanka)

“The ITMD bridging program is perhaps the only program in Canada that helps internationally trained medical doctors to enter the Canadian healthcare system, and I was honoured to be selected as a student. This program gave me the opportunity to meet great people. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, the founder and manager of the program, and his wonderful team members provided me with knowledge and skills needed for integration and success in the Canadian healthcare environment. The cohort students were really well-selected candidates and helped and supported me during the courses. I also found myself – a motivated, confident, and knowledgeable doctor who is now able to move forward in my career.”

Hossein Tofighi (Iran)

“The ITMD bridging program is a place where you can find a clear path and move forward. Throughout the program, you will meet medical professionals from all over the world in the classes and lectures. You will meet the person who “walks your walk” and is a leader who leads by example: the founder of this program, Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, who will support you in every aspect of your life. He is not only a teacher, he is also a great mentor. Generally, I can say it’s a program which helps you to understand your input and value to the healthcare system here in Canada.”

Mulualem Tegegnetwork Yimenu (Ethiopia)

Cohort 8 – Fall 2018

“The ITMD bridging program is an excellent opportunity for international medical graduates to prepare themselves for non-licensed healthcare careers such as public

health, global health, and research. It prepares them through classes that will improve their knowledge of research methodology, as well as communication and leadership knowledge that provides insight into Canadian workplace culture. Also, people get the chance to meet experienced individuals around the globe and learn from their experiences. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, who is the co-founder of the program, is a very inspiring individual. He is also very supportive of the ITMD participants and provides them with sincere advice. Overall, the ITMD bridging program is a gateway for healthcare careers in Canada.”

Shahad Abdulmajeed (Iraq)

“The ITMD bridging program is an all-encompassing program that gives one the needed foundation and boost to integrate into alternative healthcare professions in Canada. The wealth of knowledge gained from this program is astounding and incomparable to what I paid for it. Also, it has brought me into contact with well-rounded and diverse professionals in healthcare from different parts of the world and from whom I have learnt so much. The instructors are well-versed and experienced in their fields. They are always ready and willing to give extra help when needed. Thank you to Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan for this innovative and unique program that gives hope to and guides ITMDs who are trying to create a new career path in Canada.”

Olubusayo Abegunde (Nigeria)

“Not until I became a member of the ITMD family did I realize that physicians can do much more than just provide clinical care to their patients. Cogently and smartly structured, the ITMD bridging program is the perfect fit for those who decided to maximize and broaden the scope, knowledge, and skills needed to perform non-licensed health-related duties. Even if you plan to continue pursuing a clinical career, the program gives you a clearer understanding of how to construct, write, and publish your clinical research and to understand and analyze your data and numbers. Furthermore, planning and executing health projects will give you an advantage and make you a strong candidate in the Canadian health workforce. While I was in class, I felt that the program was specially designed for me; it was as if someone knew my exact knowledge and skill gaps and was trying to fill them. Behind this unique ITMD program is a person who thought out of the box and came out with this brilliant way of empowering and guiding physicians to move forward. A great mentor, brother, and friend, Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan definitely outdid himself in founding the ITMD program.”

Ayman Almaghrabi (Sudan)

“The ITMD bridging program is not a regular set of courses – it’s your gateway to success. The curriculum is perfectly structured to empower you with the set of skills needed for the workplace. The one thing that is unique about all instructors is their willingness and eagerness to offer help and support. In Cohort 8, my classmates enriched my knowledge through coming from 16 different countries and sharing their diverse professional experience. It’s basically an ITMD family that has your back, and it’s guided by Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, an inspiring healthcare leader who always refers to the success of ITMDs as his own success.”

Poussy Boulos (Egypt)

“The ITMD bridging program is a unique learning opportunity that has been specially designed for internationally trained medical doctors. This program will help you to get the additional skills that ITMDs need to gain employment in health research, health informatics, data analysis, and health management positions in Canada and to explore the latest technology in their work. Through this program, you will meet ITMDs from different countries and will improve your networking opportunities. Instructors in this program are famous specialists at their fields and will share their experiences with you – especially the founder of this program, Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, who is a strong leader, good teacher, and a great mentor. Most importantly, this program will help you to build your new life in Canada.”

Iaryna Budenchuk (Ukraine)

“For most international graduates, it is quite challenging to get a licence to practice in Canada. Finding a good job in the healthcare sector is not easy, either. The ITMD bridging program is a perfect solution to these problems. The curriculum is excellent and so well done that it gives each student the tools they need to succeed. It gives us hope, confidence, and knowledge to be successful with our careers. On a personal note, it helped me improve my communication and interpersonal skills and understanding of how to manage my projects in my workplace. My colleagues and my boss have noticed a big improvement. I definitely recommend this program to internationally trained healthcare professionals.”

Florin Buhas (Romania)

“I was experiencing significant challenges in becoming a licensed medical doctor in Canada. Despite my qualifications and experience, I found it difficult to gain any meaningful employment, particularly in the Canadian healthcare system. I was honoured to be selected out of many applicants for the ITMD bridging program at Ryerson University. This program gave me the opportunity to meet with people who have struggled like me. Under the leadership of Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and his qualified team, ITMDs have an excellent opportunity to become familiar with the fundamentals and principles of the Canadian workplace and society. This program provides the essential soft skills and knowledge needed to gain employment in the non-licensed healthcare sector in Canada. Practicum placement, which is a part of this program, helps graduates apply what they have learned in a real environment. I highly recommended this program for internationally trained medical doctors.”

Tridiv Chowdhury (Bangladesh)

“What can this program do for you? What can you gain? Through the ITMD bridging program at Ryerson University, you will be given the opportunity to join a community where you will meet medical professionals from all over the world and share their experiences. You will be introduced to the important knowledge areas that will give you keen insight on what is required to navigate through the Canadian healthcare landscape. All this will give you the confidence to take initiative and build your own bridges directed at a new future career in the Canadian workforce.”

Guzin Dincel (Turkey)

“Brain waste’ is a new title for the foreign-trained physician’s experience in Canada. The success rate for us is remarkably low, and I believe many of us resort to working in other areas. Fortunately, Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, mentor and the creator of the ITMD bridging program, has another concept. His view is to provide great opportunities for those who want to integrate into the Canadian healthcare workplace. The program offers excellent in-class, skill-based training such as research methodology, health informatics, data management, leadership, and Canadian workplace culture. The practicum placement at leading Ontario health organizations is the greatest thing that ITMD offers, and it helps participants to gain Canadian experience for non-licensed jobs. Through this, I found hope and belief in how this program could open other doors in my future career. Thanks, Dr. Bhuiyan, for inspiring all of us.”

Magdalena Landeros Escobar (Mexico)

“The ITMD bridging program at Ryerson University is an excellent option for international medical professionals who want to pursue a career in a non-licensing healthcare area such as research. It is a well-organized and fast-paced program that is packed with information delivered in a short period of time. Instructors are caring, academically trained professionals who encourage students to reach their full potential. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, the director and creator of ITMD, is very knowledgeable and has a keen eye for the current needs of the industry. In addition, he also understands the skills that international medical graduates require to enter the Canadian workforce. The flexible class schedule allows the students to complete course work and assignments quite conveniently. A unique feature of this program is its practicum placement, which prepares students to get ready to work in the real world. I would highly recommend that medical professionals look into this program if they are interested in starting a new career, as it is a great program with many opportunities to grow.”

Irum Fahim (Pakistan)

“Being a student in the ITMD bridging program has been great. The program is well designed; the classes are well taught; the instructors are amazing, and Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan is especially excellent. This course has opened doors for me and taught me things I never would have thought about myself. The course selection is very practical and useful, and allows a smooth entry into both the job market and academia. You can get almost anything you need, including good career support, resumé building, polishing of your leadership skills, and improving your communication. I am really glad I opted for this program.”

Nabeela Ilyas (India)

“The ITMD bridging program provides internationally trained medical doctors with an opportunity to get acquainted with the Canadian healthcare system and to network with like-minded ITMDs. It is a perfect stepping stone to exploring new and challenging pathways for contributing to the field of medicine. Along with subjects like health research methodology and health informatics, which provide insight into research, the program’s multidisciplinary curriculum also provides in-depth knowledge about project management that healthcare care professionals are seldom taught. The communication skills class is not only beneficial professionally, it is also immensely helpful for immigrants in successfully integrating into the cultural diversity of Canada. I had the

pleasure of working with ITMDs from 16 different countries. Needless to say, each class was enriched by the ideas and the experiences we all brought to the table. I would like to thank all my amazing and dedicated professors for this great learning experience.”

Gauri Inamdar (India)

“When I was experiencing difficulty in finding a way, the ITMD bridging program showed me the path. I feel now what I am doing is right. This bridging program is the most advantageous option for me, as well as for many internationally trained doctors. For me, this is the premier gateway for getting into the Canadian healthcare system and workforce. The ITMD program offers a series of hybrid courses designed to help internationally trained doctors develop intercultural communication, health informatics, research methodology, and project management skills. The most fascinating part of the program is the practicum placement. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, the ITMD program co-founder, successfully manages the program through excellent leadership and his team of outstanding instructors. I feel privileged to participate in the program.”

Shirin Pervin Khan (Bangladesh)

“The ITMD bridging program at Ryerson University is a unique program specifically designed to assist medical professionals in find jobs in alternative healthcare careers in Canada. The courses cover must-know subjects in health research methodology, biostatistics, and data analysis, as well as fundamentals of project management and communication and leadership skills for healthcare professionals. All instructors have devoted themselves to teaching at the highest possible level and are always available to help the participants. An important feature of this program is the practicum placement following completion of the courses. The ITMD program owes its success to co-founder and manager Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, a leading global health researcher whose seminal work in developing and introducing the Maternal and Child Health Handbook in Bangladesh has improved the lives of millions of people. To understand how positive, supportive, and enthusiastic he is, remembering his motto is enough: ‘Always moving forward.’”

Alireza Khatami (Iran)

“The greatest challenge faced by a physician who moves to Canada is recognition of their education and expertise. The ITMD bridging program provides the perfect platform for overcoming the hurdles encountered while pursuing a career in Canadian healthcare. The vision of Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and his esteemed faculty, coupled with their professional guidance, forms the backbone of this program. From the start of the application process, there is a sense of belonging and assurance as we evolve from proud ITMDs to established Canadian healthcare professionals. The program is well-structured and addresses the key areas of training that international doctors require to prepare themselves for the Canadian healthcare system. The classrooms are packed with active participation from doctors from across the globe, which broadens our knowledge. Overall, the ITMD bridging program is a perfect bridge between the clinical knowledge acquired back home and the professional training needed for healthcare in Canada.”

Joel Klinton (India)

“The ITMD bridging program is a unique and innovative approach for helping internationally trained medical professionals. Many professionals from all over the world struggle to find their career path in the healthcare sector upon arriving in Canada. Though they have a lot of clinical experience in their respective countries, they lack necessary guidance, networking opportunities, and Canadian experience here. The ITMD program is very helpful in overcoming this situation, and Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan is an efficient and great leader whose mentorship and support shows the path to success. The program is designed in a way that enables the participants to understand the Canadian healthcare system, to connect them with different research opportunities, and even help them with residencies.”

Anasua Kundu (Bangladesh)

“The ITMD bridging program is a platform for sharing experiences with researchers and medical professionals with diverse backgrounds from different countries. This program is perfectly designed to enhance participants’ academic skills and to help them gain relevant training in research methodology, health informatics, and program management. Furthermore, the practicum placement facilitates exposure to the Canadian healthcare system and workplace, which provides a unique chance for ITMDs to succeed in finding non-licensed healthcare jobs in Canada. The things that I enjoyed the most about the program were the engaging educational sessions and the strong sense of community and cooperation that exists between the students and staff. The program lead, Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, along with the other instructors and staff, is the key driver for the success of the program. He is full of positive energy and enthusiasm and is the motivation for everyone to keep moving forward. I feel privileged to be a part of this team, which I consider my fraternity of professionals in Canada.”

Aby Mathews Maluvelil (India)

“The ITMD bridging program, with its in-class training and unique idea of practicum placement, in a well-recognized educational program within the Canadian public health arena and is a very good option for an internationally trained medical doctor to start with. I found it exceptional, from the top to the bottom of the program – Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan is a very efficient and forward-thinking leader with a mentor’s true passion, and he leads a well-selected team of equally talented and specialized staff. This program is constructed in such a manner that it covers vast area of subjects which the current non-licensed health market asks for from a job seeker. You receive guidance and precise training throughout. There is a very tough selection process to get into this distinguished program, and I think it is worth your every effort – it is a once-in-a-lifetime chance.”

Shereen Perera (Sri Lanka)

“Professional knowledge and competence acquired through the ITMD bridging program will provide you with valuable experience and assurance in establishing yourself in a professional career within the Canadian healthcare system. It will be an exciting experience to study with multinational medical and dental professionals possessing multicultural backgrounds. With this learning experience, you will establish true friendships and a supportive network. The instructors are enthusiastic and determined to help you succeed, and above all, you will come across the founder and the real asset of the program – Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan. With his tireless efforts, he infuses in you a constant

positive sense of support, guidance, and moving forward towards achieve your cherished goals.”

Mehvish Siddiqui (Pakistan)

“While many internationally trained medical doctors believe this bridging program is a platform to get into the Canadian healthcare sector, to me, it’s a starting point where one gets remolded, polished, and formed to fit perfectly into the Canadian workplace environment. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and his team work very hard to bring the best out of each and every participant. The program is designed to provide guidance for clearly setting one’s future goals. I feel extremely lucky and honored to be part of ITMD family and to have a supportive mentor like Dr. Bhuiyan.”

Nabila Tasnim (Bangladesh)

“The ITMD bridging program is a master class for internationally trained medical doctors. The courses selected are very instructive, in both real knowledge and application. The practicum also offers a pragmatic approach to applying knowledge to the real world. The blend of professional training in health, research, and skills for easier integration and better teamwork is excellent. The classes on leadership, communication, and Canadian culture and values have given most of us a great advantage and will shorten the time needed for cultural integration into Canada. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan is a mentor’s mentor. He and his team build and sustain a positive sense of self-belief and can-do spirit. He’s forward thinking and goes beyond your expectations to help you succeed in both the program and in the country.”

George (Jr) N. Uzonwanne (Nigeria)

“I had returned home after graduating from medical school in Singapore. I felt the ITMD bridging program was like jumping on a springboard to help launch me back into the Canadian system. In class, I am surrounded by people who are experiencing the same path to working and making contributions to the health sector. We supported and helped one another, built new relationships, and grew our skills and knowledge with each passing week. After my ITMD experience, my head – once weighed down with doubts – is now held high and forward, and I’m ready to meet the challenges and needs of the Canadian community.”

Alfred Wong (Canada)

“My journey in the ITMD bridging program has been one of the most valuable educational experiences that I have ever received. Not only has the program offered me in-depth knowledge on health research methodology, health informatics, and data management, it has also given me hands-on experience with data-analyzing software (such as SPSS and RevMan) while conducting systematic literature reviews and performing meta-analysis research. The knowledge that I gained has prepared me to become a competent clinician-scientist. I also had the opportunity to grow my soft skills in the health communication and leadership course – specifically cross-cultural communication skills, which are very essential to workplace relationships but often overlooked. My mentor, Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, has helped thousands of patients at Women’s Hospital at Bangladesh as both a passionate and gentle clinician and a global health researcher. He was able to help hundreds of thousands more women and

children in the country to achieve better health status. He inspired me to become someone more than just a physician – a clinician-scientist who will contribute to the healthcare outcomes of Canadians.”

Julie Zhuo Yang (China)

“The ITMD bridging program provides a distinctive opportunity for international medical doctors and other health professionals interested in research and public health. Through well-designed courses presented by supportive, knowledgeable instructors, you will achieve a vast amount of practical, new information that is compatible with the Canadian healthcare system and culture and which can be directly applied to Canadian workplaces through a practicum placement. It is an honour for me to be in this cohort with Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, the director of the program and a leader in global health, and his great team, who guide all candidates step by step. All in all, it has assured me that I am on the right path towards becoming a physician-scientist and integrating into the Canadian healthcare system.”

Zahra Tofighi Zavareh (Iran)

Cohort 9 – Spring/Summer 2019

“Learning about the ITMD bridging program occurred amidst such uncertainty about my career in Canada – what a difference it made! I was introduced to a world of skills and opportunities that I would have otherwise needed years to acquire, and also was able to learn from the experience of other doctors from around the world. It made me feel that I was not alone in my quest. Most importantly, I had the honour of knowing and benefitting from Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, the program manager and a leader in global health, and his great team. His expertise, enthusiasm, and dedication rekindled my long-time interest in global health and helped me meet the challenge of joining the Canadian healthcare system in the future with confidence.”

Ornela Ademovi (Albania)

“The ITMD bridging program provides excellent resources and hands-on experience for today’s evolving and fast-paced health sector developments. The program uses research methodology that supports the communication skills and learning curve of the candidates. This program serves many purposes, including how to understand, translate, and use data; this in turn will help you to write a well-planned and structured paper, project, or presentation. A unique feature of this program is the utilization of informatics and data management. The program is structured so that from Day 1, you start layering your thoughts and ideas. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan has been an inspiration to us all. His ideas and methodology really helped us focus on the tasks at hand.”

Naheed A. Akhtar (Bangladesh)

“The ITMD bridging program offers an exceptionally unique opportunity for international trained medical doctors interested in alternative careers. The courses are well constructed and focus on the main gaps that international doctors need to fill in order to get into the Canadian healthcare system. I had the opportunity to build on my previous knowledge and experience in public health and research, and to gain new skills. All the

instructors provided excellent training and effective advice to their students. Professor Shafi Bhuiyan, an enthusiastic mentor and founder of this program, always motivates his students and shares other students' successful stories. He has supported and guided hundreds of doctors in finding their paths in the Canadian health system and achieving their goals through the program practicum and networking."

Walaa Al-Chetachi (Iraq)

"The ITMD bridging program equips internationally trained medical doctors with the skills necessary for finding opportunities in healthcare fields that do not require licensing. The program gives its students a well-rounded education that provides a unique set of hard and soft skills needed to be ready and successful in Canadian healthcare. Aside from the educational aspects of this program, students get to build a strong network of peers and experts in health-related fields. This program is a result of the hard work and dedication of Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, who is dedicated to the program's participants and provides them with constant instruction, mentorship, and assistance in navigating the Canadian healthcare system."

Yihya Al-Eryani (Yemen)

"The ITMD bridging program provides a window into a bright future for internationally trained medical doctors. This program offers a combination of both hard and soft skills that are essential components of Canadian workplace culture. This program not only prepares students with knowledge but also gives them the opportunity to network with many different healthcare organizations and successful individuals, which opens a new door for entry into the Canadian healthcare system."

Yeafi Awal (Bangladesh)

"Low self-esteem, a limited network of connections, and lack of Canadian work experience are some problems faced by newcomers to Canada; the ITMD bridging program assists immigrant physicians in overcoming these barriers. Through the relevant, high-quality content, the program strengthens our skills for the Canadian job market. It also assists in our search for a practicum placement with leading companies and institutions, where we can apply our knowledge in real-life situations. In addition, the network we build as part of the program is essential. Most importantly, I believe the program's greatest strength is the inspiration and encouragement given to us by Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, his team, and all the instructors who make this program a success."

Bianca Barros (Brazil)

"I am thrilled with the ITMD bridging program and Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan for exposing me to the many opportunities the Canadian public health system has to offer. The wide range of topics covered – including global health, research, project management, health informatics, and communication – has helped me develop the wide range of tools necessary for entering the healthcare system and further excelling in the field. Necessary Canadian experience is addressed through a practicum placement, and networking takes place through different events and speeches by renowned people in the field. I am really thankful for the program and its program manager, Dr. Bhuiyan; this wonderful gift has been a great investment for my life."

Nischal Bhari (India)

“The ITMD bridging program is a great opportunity for international medical graduates to start a new career. This program gives hope and prepares ITMDs to take their place in a fast-paced and competitive environment. It gives them courage and confidence, and it provides exposure to and insight into the Canadian healthcare system. As the program manager, Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan is a great leader. He provides one-on-one guidance and training that enables us to recognize our weaknesses and strengths. This program changed my perspective and attitude and gave me fresh insight for my future endeavours.”

Sadaf Bukhari (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program provides a platform for international graduates who want to pursue a career in the non-licensed healthcare sector. The curriculum is smartly structured to develop and hone the skills needed to work in the Canadian workplace. One of the highlights of the program is the chance to meet experienced professionals from around the globe and to learn from their experiences. The instructors are highly experienced and always willing to offer their help – especially Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, who is a co-founder of the program, a global health advocate, and a great mentor. I highly recommend this program to all internationally trained doctors who wish to build their careers in Canadian healthcare.”

Nida Fatima (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program affords internationally trained medical graduates an excellent opportunity to upgrade their skills in the allied health realm with the goal of successful integration into the Canadian healthcare sector. Under the mentorship of Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and the other program instructors, I have had the opportunity to explore alternative careers in global public health, project management, health informatics, and research. I have come to realize that it is never too late to change career paths, and that one can always be successful if one dares to dream! I would like to thank Dr. Bhuiyan and the ITMD team for so passionately supporting internationally trained doctors and giving us the skills and confidence to soar ahead.”

Rubaica Fidvi (India)

“ITMD is a bridging program designed for internationally educated medical doctors with the goal of preparing them to enter the diverse Canadian healthcare sector. The program introduces individuals to a wide range of skill sets that effectively enables them to use their knowledge and capabilities and to take part in the advancement of the fast growing healthcare field in Canada. One distinguishing factor from its counterparts is the everyday support and encouragement from program co-founder Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, his staff, and the program alumni. In all, the program is an important step for an internationally trained medical doctor to enter the healthcare sector in Canada.”

Mahtab Ghasemi (Iran)

“The ITMD bridging program is a great, innovative program that helps us understand Canadian culture and guides us through our career path options. It helps bring people closer and increases networks, giving opportunities to interact with various people from different fields. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan personally listens to your problems and makes them his own in order to help individuals reach their fullest potential. It feels like finding a

family in Canada. The program also provides insight into various other healthcare careers that can enable us to pursue non-licensed medical professions.”

Meenakshi Gupta (Zambia)

“‘Just give me a chance,’ is a sentiment echoed by many ITMDs in Canada. It takes patience and courage to seek healthcare opportunities in the Canadian workplace. The ITMD bridging program at Ryerson University provides the diverse foundation necessary to move into non-licensed healthcare careers and further education. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, the co-founder of this program – along with his team and fellow lecturers – have been encouraging and supportive, providing ITMDs with genuine advice. I appreciated the opportunity to learn from him and others, including my fellow classmates who I now consider as my Canadian family. I will continue to represent and support this program. I definitely believe it will give ITMDs that “chance” going forward.”

Arun Homenauth (Guyana)

“It is a great honour to get the opportunity to be a part of this valuable educational program. The ITMD bridging program not only refreshes my previous knowledge of research methodology, health informatics, and data management, but it also gives me new insight into project management and soft skills. Furthermore, I gained significant hands-on experience in operating data-analyzing software such as RevMan 5 and SPSS, as well as conducting systematic literature reviews and performing meta-analysis research. Before entering this meaningful program, I was confused and anxious about my future in Canada. Now, I think I have a much clearer path in the field I am passionate about. I sincerely appreciate all the effort and work done by my mentor, Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan.”

Jiawei Hu (China)

“The ITMD bridging program provides a road map to future careers for internationally trained medical professionals based on their skill sets and strengths. This program introduces the structure of the Canadian healthcare system and gives an overview of software tools used to analyze data in research. It also builds up managerial and workplace skills that open pathways to the non-licensed Canadian healthcare sector.”

Agafya Krivova (Russia)

“Having struggled for years trying to get a foothold in Canadian healthcare workforce, the ITMD program at Ryerson University was a blessing. This platform provides the right balance of the tools required to become a competitive healthcare professional in the current healthcare system and to make each student successful. Everyone selected for the ITMD program is very intelligent and brings with them a treasure chest full of knowledge, experiences, and personality. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and his excellent group of teachers and mentors polish that unique intellect and provide custom-tailored skills for whatever direction your career takes. I highly recommend this program for ITMDs.”

Sidra Malik (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program is a great, efficient program that allows ITMDs to pursue a career in the Canadian healthcare system. It gives us a complete package of knowledge, skills, and networking opportunities, and it shows us different paths we can

pursue. It is very exciting to meet ITMDs from different countries with more or less the same backgrounds and experiences. The courses are very well structured and designed to help us get the skills required for the Canadian healthcare workforce. The instructors are very supportive and always ready to help us. I feel lucky to be a part of the ITMD family under the guidance of our positive-minded mentor Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, co-founder of this program. I will never forget his saying, 'Always moving forward.'

Kyaw Swa Min (Myanmar)

"The ITMD bridging program is a unique program that equips international medical graduates with skills they need for non-licensed healthcare careers. The program provides ITMDs with improved communication and writing skills, as well as project management and research methodology. Even if you want to pursue your clinical career, this program will help you understand Canadian culture and expectations better. I want to thank Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan for creating such an innovative and unique program that gives hope, guidance, and a path towards success for ITMDs in Canada."

Syed Sikander Mohyiddin (Pakistan)

"The ITMD bridging program is a unique platform to prepare international medical graduates for non-licensed healthcare careers, especially in public health and research. This program is designed to improve skills in research methodology, health informatics, data and project management, and communication. In addition, the program provides guidance for clearly setting one's future goals. It is a great place to share diverse professional experiences and improve networking opportunities with ITMDs from different parts of the world. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan is a very efficient and great leader whose mentorship and support is key to the success of the program. I feel extremely proud and honored to be a part of the ITMD family."

Nurun Nahar (Bangladesh)

"The ITMD bridging program helps integrate ITMDs into the Canadian healthcare system by addressing the gaps encountered by international medical graduates. The cohesive teaching methods and qualified staff help students analyze their existing management, research, and academic skills and how to apply them to the Canadian healthcare system. It enabled me to obtain a different perspective on healthcare and how to work in it through departments other than clinical practice. This program brings together a unique blend of cultural and professional experiences through health professionals from a variety of countries. The enthusiasm and zest of my peers, and positive feedback from lecturers and Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, have strengthened my motivation. I would like to thank our wonderful mentor Dr. Bhuiyan, and strongly recommend this program to internationally trained health professionals who wish to excel in their future career goals."

Oxana Pihut (Moldova)

"I love the fact that I am part of this wonderful program that has given me the opportunity to polish my research skills. In addition, I learned health informatics, project management, and leadership skills. I can also see a remarkable improvement in my communication skills. I consider Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan as my mentor, as he has always guided me in the best direction. I really recommend this program to all internationally

trained medical doctors who believe in moving forward.”

Saima Waseem Qureshi (Pakistan)

“It was a real privilege to be part of the ITMD bridging program at Ryerson University. This program enhances and polishes our own knowledge, and provides us with necessary tools for success. It is the key to the door that opens a world of professional possibilities for working or continuing to study in Canada. The Canadian healthcare system is different, and the program takes us by the hand to help us attain a better understanding of it. The program is based in important areas such as communication skills, research, technology, and project management. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, the founder of the program, is a brilliant professional – innovative, dynamic, and always supportive of us.”

Rudy Ruiz (Honduras)

“The ITMD program has paved the way into the Canadian healthcare system for multiple international doctors. It offers an interdisciplinary approach and opens up different avenues in public health, data analytics, research, and health informatics. It has also supported many doctors in their pursuit of further education. The well-designed curriculum meets the needs of potential employers in the healthcare industry. It provides hands-on training for standard software like SPSS, NVivo, and RevMan and favours building desired technical skills. It provides robust training in project management and health communications, which are essential transferable skills demanded by the Canadian workplace. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, co-founder of the program, is the key influencer and motivator for the participants, and he helps us access multiple networking opportunities with renowned public health professionals. The ITMD bridging program has been an excellent experience and has offered a promising future.”

Abha Sharma (India)

Cohort 10 – Fall 2019

“The ITMD bridging program is a perfect opportunity for international medical graduates to pursue alternative healthcare careers in Canada. It provides knowledge and transferable research methodology and communication skills in a Canadian context. It also provides a good chance to network with the Ryerson faculty and international medical graduate (IMG) peers.”

Amr Ahmed (Egypt)

“The ITMD bridging program at Ryerson University is an admirable and supportive initiative for internationally trained medical doctors (ITMDs). Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, who is the co-founder of the program, is a very inspiring and motivating professional. His program prepares ITMDs for Canadian non-licensed healthcare careers through specific modules that enhance participants’ knowledge of effective communication and leadership skills, research methodology, and project management and provide insight into Canadian workplace culture. In addition, it is a useful forum to exchange opinions and experiences with different calibres of individuals from around the globe and to learn from them. The ITMD program is a beneficial gateway to non-licensed healthcare

careers in Canada.”

Hasnaa Alhossaini (Syria)

“It was a great opportunity for me to undertake the ITMD bridging program at The Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University. The program immensely assisted me with refreshing my skills in, and knowledge of, public health. It not only prepared me to compete in the Canadian healthcare market but also prepared me for international opportunities such as global healthcare. As it was a comprehensive and integrated program covering various topics like research, management, communications, informatics, and an overview of Canadian health system, it prepared the participating medical graduates to undertake a variety of responsibilities within healthcare services. For this thoughtful, innovative endeavour, I express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, co-founder and initiator of the bridging program.”

Ishtiaq Bashir (Bangladesh)

“The ITMD bridging program is the only one of its kind in Canada, and it provides a unique learning opportunity to successfully integrate ITMDs into non-licensed healthcare employment. The program also gives students the opportunity to make valuable connections with leaders who contribute to Canadian healthcare on all levels. All of the instructors are authorities in their respective fields and impart invaluable knowledge that bridges the gap to Canadian education for the students.”

Hredyesh Bhayana (India)

“One of the primary distinctive qualities of the ITMD bridging program is in its combination of courses, which target a knowledge set required for transition into the Canadian health force. This unique program is geared towards harnessing and furthering the skill sets that internationally trained medical personnel bring with them. With lectures delivered by leading instructors, participants are treated to first-hand insights in the fields of research methodology, health informatics, and project management, amongst others. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, the co-founder of the program, is an exceptional individual. His in-depth knowledge of the Canadian health system coupled with his life experiences provides him with a unique perspective in catering to the needs of ITMDs. This program serves as a premium gateway for alternative healthcare careers in Canada.”

Victor Effiom (Nigeria)

“The ITMD bridging program helped me to enhance my abilities and knowledge in research, health informatics, and project management. The communication and leadership courses in this program provided a valuable perspective on how to apply my skills in the Canadian healthcare workforce. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and his team have created a most useful program for IMGs.”

Mahsa Eghbali (Iran)

“I am very proud to be part of the select group of ITMD bridging program participants at Ryerson University. I found this program to be a unique opportunity to enhance my knowledge of the non-licensed healthcare system in Canada. Through this program, I

have had the opportunity to develop and improve my communication skills and to adapt them to the Canadian context. The program also has a strong research component that can help students be part of any healthcare organization and prepare them for the workforce in Canada.”

Oscar Enciso (Colombia)

“The ITMD bridging program was a wonderful opportunity to learn about what is required in the Canadian work environment. It showed us the important skills we needed to work in Canada and how to use our strengths and weaknesses. When I arrived in Canada, I did not exactly know which of my skills would be most valuable in a new healthcare career; understanding these existing skills, as well as new skills that I have been learning throughout these months, will help me to achieve my goals. This program teaches participants how to apply their skills in different areas such as research methodology, management strategies, workplace relationships, and many others. I recommend this program for all doctors who come to Canada to fulfil their dreams.”

Marcia Garcia (Bolivia)

“The ITMD bridging program is designed for international medical graduates who want to transition to non-regulated healthcare careers in Canada. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, the program manager and co-founder, has successfully created an interface between professional development and learning opportunities in the areas of research methodology, data analysis, and networking within Canadian healthcare culture. He is a very dedicated mentor who guides with sincerity and passion – always encouraging us to excel as professionals.”

Nabila Khalid (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program is an incredible opportunity for international medical doctors who are struggling to find the right career path in Canada. It helps to expose the vast pool of opportunities that lie invisible to a newcomer coming to Canada with a professional degree. It allows us to see gaps in our existing knowledge and helps to build new skills that prepare us for non-licensed healthcare careers. Its courses help us to learn soft and hard skills that make us better equipped for Canadian workplace culture. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, the program co-founder, has created a remarkable and friendly environment that helps every student in the class to be their best, and I am grateful to be a part of it.”

Roohi Ladhar (India)

“The ITMD bridging program has opened my eyes to what is required in the Canadian workplace. It has brought to our attention the skills needed to navigate this competitive work environment, teaching us the importance of integrating our soft and hard skills into an attractive package for Canadian employers. Before starting this program, I did not have a firm grasp of what was expected of me in order to achieve my goals. Through this program, IMGs acquire invaluable skills and learn how to apply them to interpersonal relationships, research methodology, and management strategies, and they also gain many more fundamental insights into what makes Canada one of the leaders in healthcare. This program is strongly recommended for anyone with the desire

to integrate into Canada's healthcare workforce.”

Marco Mueller (Bolivia)

“The ITMD bridging program is a capacity-building, knowledge-enriching, and highly focused program designed to prepare international doctors for non-licensed healthcare careers in Canada. It targets three main areas – public health, global health, and research. Knowledge is delivered through interactive sessions taught by professionals in an interesting, well-planned manner, enabling ITMDs to acquire the communication, research methodology, and leadership skills necessary for the Canadian workplace. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, the originator of the ITMD program, is a visionary and an inspiring person who supports the ITMDs through their entire successful career path. The program as whole is one of a kind.”

Nuha Mustafa (Sudan)

“The ITMD bridging program is a great opportunity for internationally trained medical graduates to launch their careers in the Canadian non-licensed healthcare workforce. It offers the chance to be taught by world-class tutors from a top Canadian university in sought-after topics such as health research methodology, project management, health informatics, data management, and communication and leadership skills. It's a great way to enlarge one's professional network – participants are medical professionals from over 20 countries across the globe – and to take advantage of the incredible opportunity to acquire Canadian experience at accredited healthcare institutions. Ryerson University is easily accessible by public transport, and the program supports work–study schedules, encourages continual job seeking and career development, and has a very interactive environment, with lots of support offered by tutors and fellow students. You won't want to miss it!”

Margaret Nansumba (Uganda)

“Ryerson University's ITMD bridging program is a unique learning opportunity for internationally trained medical doctors who wish to transition into non-licensed healthcare careers and who have the ultimate goal of contributing to process improvements that positively impact Canada's healthcare system. The program's course work and practicum placement components provide the perfect platform for acquiring the skills needed to integrate into the Canadian workplace environment. The courses are structured in such a way that they boost one's confidence as well as heighten the desire to be part of the Canadian healthcare system. Thanks to Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, the co-founder and program manager, and his dedicated team of program instructors and coordinators who work relentlessly to make this goal achievable!”

Bolanle Oludairo (Nigeria)

“The ITMD bridging program is a unique program that gives internationally trained medical graduates an overview of the Canadian healthcare field, including the research sector. The program covers various important topics through its syllabus. Experienced instructors make this program enjoyable despite its condensed structure. I'm proud to be a member of Cohort 10.”

Kartikey Palan (India)

“The ITMD bridging program offers a unique introduction and transition to the Canadian workplace for IMGs who have chosen a career in a non-licensed healthcare field. It is a compact series of lectures on communication, leadership, teamwork, biostatistics, and information management, to name a few of the subjects taught. Several countries around the world are represented through the program participants, and ITMDs can share their varied experiences to enrich the lives and knowledge of their classmates. They can also use their classroom experience for personal growth and professional development. The program is continuously evolving and is filled with positive people who express hope for medical doctors who feel a little lost in their careers after leaving their home countries.”

Kavita Panchoo (Trinidad and Tobago)

“The ITMD bridging program is a unique course for internationally trained medical doctors currently living around Toronto. Innovative co-founder Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan designed the whole program in a concise, coherent, and interesting way with knowledgeable, compassionate, resourceful, and experienced instructors. Intended for non-licensed healthcare professionals, this program prepares and guides them on important topics such as grant applications, writing, interview performance, presentations, project management, research methodology, and adapting to public as well as global health industries. This interactive training program requires active participation and gives great insight into the healthcare sector in Canada. In this program, students get the opportunity to increase and improve their networks and gain large support groups. I believe that the ITMD bridging program will definitely help me build a successful career.”

Fahmida Rahman (Bangladesh)

“The ITMD bridging program is a wonderful learning experience. It is a chance for you to grow and apply your knowledge to the Canadian healthcare system. It is a unique program tailored to international medical graduates. This program allows you to understand your weaknesses and build on your strengths. As Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan says, “always moving forward,” and this program is exactly that. It guides individuals towards different possibilities and available opportunities. The courses are focused on gaining knowledge and skills specifically needed for the professional Canadian workplace. Professors are supportive, encouraging, and friendly. Dr. Bhuiyan always encouraged us to be innovative, to be positive, and never to give up. These types of encouragement have kept me going. I'm very grateful to have joined this program, and I will definitely apply all the knowledge and skills I have learned to my future practicums and career.”

Sallam Saki (Iran)

“The bridging program for ITMDs at Ryerson University provides an excellent opportunity for doctors trained in other countries to transition into non-licensed healthcare careers in Canada. The program helped me to strengthen my skills in health research methodology, health informatics, data management, project management, communication, and leadership. I also had the opportunity to meet very experienced doctors from around the globe and to learn from their experiences. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, who is the co-founder of the ITMD program, is the prime reason for the success of this program. He is a very inspiring and motivating leader, and he is supportive of the ITMD

participants. His advice and guidance is always sincere and practical.”

Nasir Sarfraz (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program is an opportunity to open new doors and fields for IMGs other than medicine. As a result, it broadens our knowledge and increases the opportunities for work in different sectors of the healthcare system in Canada. The calibre of the lecturers and their support for the students is unbelievable. The guidance from Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and the lecturers is very inspiring. Putting into perspective that only 10 percent of IMGs work in clinical medicine in Canada, the bridging program is an excellent alternative to medicine, encouraging participants to work in non-licensed jobs in the healthcare system in Canada and acting as a very nice introduction for further studies in other fields. It’s also the perfect chance to be introduced to Canadian culture and the Canadian workplace in general.”

Ashraf Shahin (Egypt)

“The ITMD bridging program is a great opportunity to integrate into Canadian culture and the Canadian workplace. Here, you can learn more about research methodology, leadership, how better to understand better Canadian culture, and how to adapt in the workplace. It is a good opportunity to learn and share experiences with other professionals from around the world. At the end of a short amount of time, you will have a lot of friends and supporters through this program. You can find inspiration and be encouraged to grow and not give up on your dreams. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan really knows how to inspire and encourage you. The ITMD program is a good start to a non-licensed healthcare career in Canada.”

Marsida Stafa (Albania)

“The ITMD bridging program offered by Ryerson University is a concise and unique program for immigrant healthcare professionals. The program offers a fast-track route to integrating into the field of clinical research, and it offers numerous networking opportunities. The courses taught in this program are very well planned to help students build all the relevant skills required for working in the Canadian healthcare sector. The teachers are expert in their fields, and they are knowledgeable, humble, and helpful – they are great educators. Co-founder of the program Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and his team are a bunch of optimistic people who motivate and support international medical graduates in building their non-licensed healthcare careers.”

Sara Subhan (Pakistan)

“The ITMD bridging program is a great program for international medical graduates. By taking this program, ITMDs can understand how they can progress in their careers. This program also improves our knowledge in many different ways, including our research and public health knowledge. Using Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan’s advice, people can find a proper career path for themselves. He is a wonderful person. Thank you, sir, for helping us.”

Abeda Sultana (Bangladesh)

“The ITMD bridging program is designed to help students pursue employment in health research and health management positions across Canada by learning the additional

skills needed to qualify for these types of jobs. The courses allows you to stay informed about the continuous updates in the healthcare field while enabling you to learn new skills and integrate your medical background with Canadian workplace culture. This program can be used as a backbone to utilize every IMG's potential in the healthcare industry and find them healthcare-related jobs. This program will help participants to jump-start a career in the clinical research field, and would even be beneficial to those who want to pursue their Canadian residency program or other long-term career goals. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, the co-founder of this program, is always making maximum efforts to put his students first, and following closely in his footsteps will get candidates to greater-than-expected positions.”

Anicka Vijeyanathan (India)

For More Information

Contact Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, Program Manager, Internationally Trained Medical Doctors (ITMD) Bridging Program, by email at itmds@ryerson.ca or visit ryerson.ca/ce/itmd.

To learn more about The Chang School's bridging programs for internationally trained professionals, visit ryerson.ca/ce/gateway.