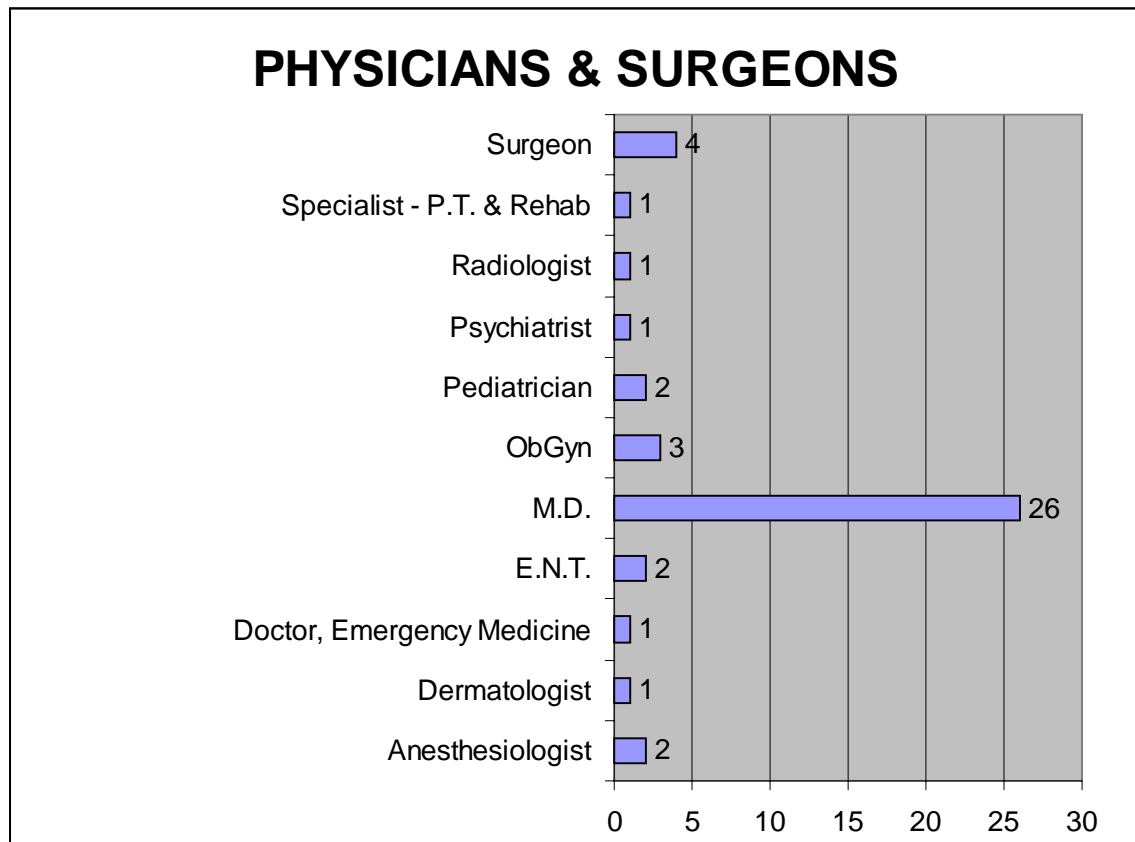


BC INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PROFESSIONALS NETWORK SECOND MEETING – MAY 29, 2003

Summary Report

The Participants

Total number of participants:	48
New participants:	32
Participated first meeting:	12
Other Professionals who attended:	4



The participants came from Vancouver, Burnaby, Pitt Meadows, Coquitlam, New Westminster, and Surrey.

Overview of the Meeting

The second meeting of the Internationally Trained Physicians and Surgeons was held on May 29th, 2003 at Collingwood Neighbourhood House from 6pm-9pm. The purpose of the meeting was to provide updated information on the BCITP Network Project, provide information on associations and initiatives related to internationally trained physicians and surgeons, prioritize goals and actions and discuss forming an association or network of internationally trained physicians and surgeons.

A member of the management committee provided updated information on the project. A project consultant has been hired to work with the associations and regions. The web site will be up and running in the near future. The web site address is: www.bcitp.net Follow up meetings are being held in the lower mainland with internationally trained engineers and physicians and surgeons. Meetings are also being held in Victoria, Nanaimo and Vernon.

The session included a presentation of the findings of the information sessions. This included information on the numbers and types of professions of participants in the information sessions and a break down of the number and type of physicians. A description of the barriers facing internationally trained professionals and the ideas for a network or association was also provided.

An overview was also provided regarding the Association of International Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (AIPSO).

Participants were divided into seven groups of 5 – 8 persons and asked to prioritize three ideas from the summary report of their last meeting.

Priorities identified

Their ideas and action steps have been organized under four points:

1. Provide Services to Members
2. Lobby and Advocate with Government and Regulatory Organizations
3. Set up a Network and or Association
4. Liaise and Build Relationships with Stakeholders

The following is a description of the priorities and action steps arising from the group discussions:

1. Provide Services to Members

A. Provide information about the process of becoming a physician in Canada. This includes:

- **The steps to take,**
- **Alternative employment possibilities,**
- **Upgrading programs,**
- **Studying for the examination,**
- **University Offerings.**

(7 groups identified this idea as a priority):

Action Steps:

- Establish an association for international graduate physicians and surgeons in BC.
- Access resources for studying for TOEFL. Provide useful information about studying for TOEFL examinations.

- Get information about upgrading programs.
- Develop awareness of alternative employment possibilities.
- Use the media: Mainstream and Ethnic newspapers, the radio, web sites, and television to put out information about Internationally Trained Physicians and Surgeons.

B. Bring in speakers: representatives from universities, internationally trained professionals who have successfully completed the process, and representatives from other organizations who have similar goals.

- Invite people who have successfully gone through the process to share their own experiences: what process they had to go through, what leads they had to accomplish their goals.
- Invite foreign doctors who have succeeded in Canada or the USA to give us detailed information of their experiences.

C. Have regular meetings to create networks, to provide support, to share ideas and experiences, to have a study group, to provide opportunities to develop English skills, to provide a means of professional networking and to discuss issues.

Action Steps

- Create a well-known association.
- Get government support.
- Have Regular meetings.
- Create access to the existing medical facilities.

2. Lobby and Advocate with Government and Regulatory Organizations

A. Work with government and regulatory organizations on:

- **How to train new immigrant doctors,**
- **How to make the process of licensing shorter,**
- **How to keep ITP doctors current through professional development.**
- **Develop a course to help people write the examinations.**

(Seven groups identified this as a priority.)

Action Steps:

- Create an association,
- Identify and select representatives/leaders who are willing to advocate for the association.
- Enforce/Influence provincial and federal government laws through different ways: the use of media, letters to MPs and MLAs, meetings with independent associations, and articles in community newsletters.

- Advocate for the development of a subsidized course to help people write the examinations.
- Advocate for clinical training for immigrant doctors before or after their evaluations examinations.
- Work with the community as a volunteer.

3. Set up a Network and or Association

A. Create a national organization with provincial chapters.

Action Steps:

- To have regular meetings.
- To recruit new members through advertising.
- To increase visibility and build awareness of our organization through the media. Our voice must be heard, must be written, and our knowledge must be used by people who need our help as doctors.
- To make our chapters accessible to others to have more members to: brainstorm , take up our actions to spread the plight of international graduates, and create a stir in the community.
- To join other organizations, chapters.
- To ask the organizers of the current meeting to help us in creating an association for international medical graduates in BC.

5. Liaise and Build Relationships with Stakeholders

A. Liaise or join other associations and networks of physicians and other professionals such as AIPSO and CASSA to build on their successes and to increase our national clout.

B. Make relations with supportive sources like the University of BC and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC.

C. Connect with program heads in hospitals in person or on the inter-net. Program heads can help us find supervisors, and we can work as observers to keep in touch with the medical environment. This will help us when writing our licensing examinations

D. Develop connections with medical research groups.

Action Steps:

- Find one or two or more certain research groups, for example the research group at U.B.C.
- Arrange a meeting with them and discuss how to find possibilities for research work for ITPs.

Committees

1. Lobby/advocate government and regulatory organizations

Next Meeting: First Friday of each month at 6pm. starting July. For details contact

Laila Warif

warif@canada.com or

Faiz Mohammad Samadi

fmsamadi@yahoo.com

2. Liaise and build relationships with stakeholders

Next Meeting: Friday July 11th, at 6pm. For details contact

Shir Hazhir

Hazhir2217@hotmail.com

3. Set up a network/association

Next Meeting: July 24th at 6.30pm. For details contact

Francisco Granados

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Ryve Loshaj

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Huiying (Kate) Lu

huiyinglu@hotmail.com

Vesna Stajic

vesnastajic@yahoo.ca

4. Provide services to members

Next Meeting: To be decided. For details contact

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