



EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES

FAIMER®

Foundation for Advancement of
International Medical Education and Research

ECFMG | FAIMER Update

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*2020 OPDA Fall Meeting
October 30, 2020*

IMGs Entering Residency

IMG Performance in the 2020 Match

- 12,074 IMGs participated (up from 11,949 in 2019)
- 61.1% (7,376) IMGs matched (up from 58.8% in 2019)

4,222 Foreign National Physicians

(Non-U.S. Citizen IMGs) Matched to a 2020/2021 U.S. GME position

IMGs Entering Residency

Efforts to Facilitate Entry During COVID-19

Advocacy with U.S. Department of State (DOS):

- Urged the DOS to open visa processing at embassies and consulates worldwide for physicians
- Worked with DOS to mitigate issues related to visa appointments for physicians
- Sought and received confirmation that J-1 physicians could engage in alternate assignments
- Pursued flexibilities regarding Statement of Need requirements, the grace period for exiting J-1 physicians
- Worked with Social Security Administration to secure appointments for new J-1 physicians

Collaboration with Partner Organizations:

- Worked with NRMP to deliver data to DOS for visa processing request
- Served as a resource and worked with other organizations, including AAMC and AMA, to alert policymakers as to the impacts of immigration issues on incoming physicians

IMGs Entering Residency

Efforts to Facilitate Entry During COVID-19

Special Outreach to GME Programs and J-1 Physicians:

- Training program liaison (TPL) surveys helped identify trending issues at training hospitals
- Targeted e-mails and live webinars provided timely, important updates to TPLs, Program Directors, and DIOs at GME programs
- Outreach to current and incoming J-1 physicians via e-mail and Twitter providing important info on travel restrictions, entry guidance, and well-being resources



COVID-19 Special Outreach:

- Total e-mails: 55
- Total tweets: 39
- Total website updates: 6
- Total webinars: 3
- Total surveys: 2

IMGs Entering Residency

2,887 J-1 Applications Completed and Forms DS-2019 Issued

2,819 Foreign National Physicians Have Reported Their Arrival

- Currently **98% have reported their arrival**
- This rate is similar to non-COVID years

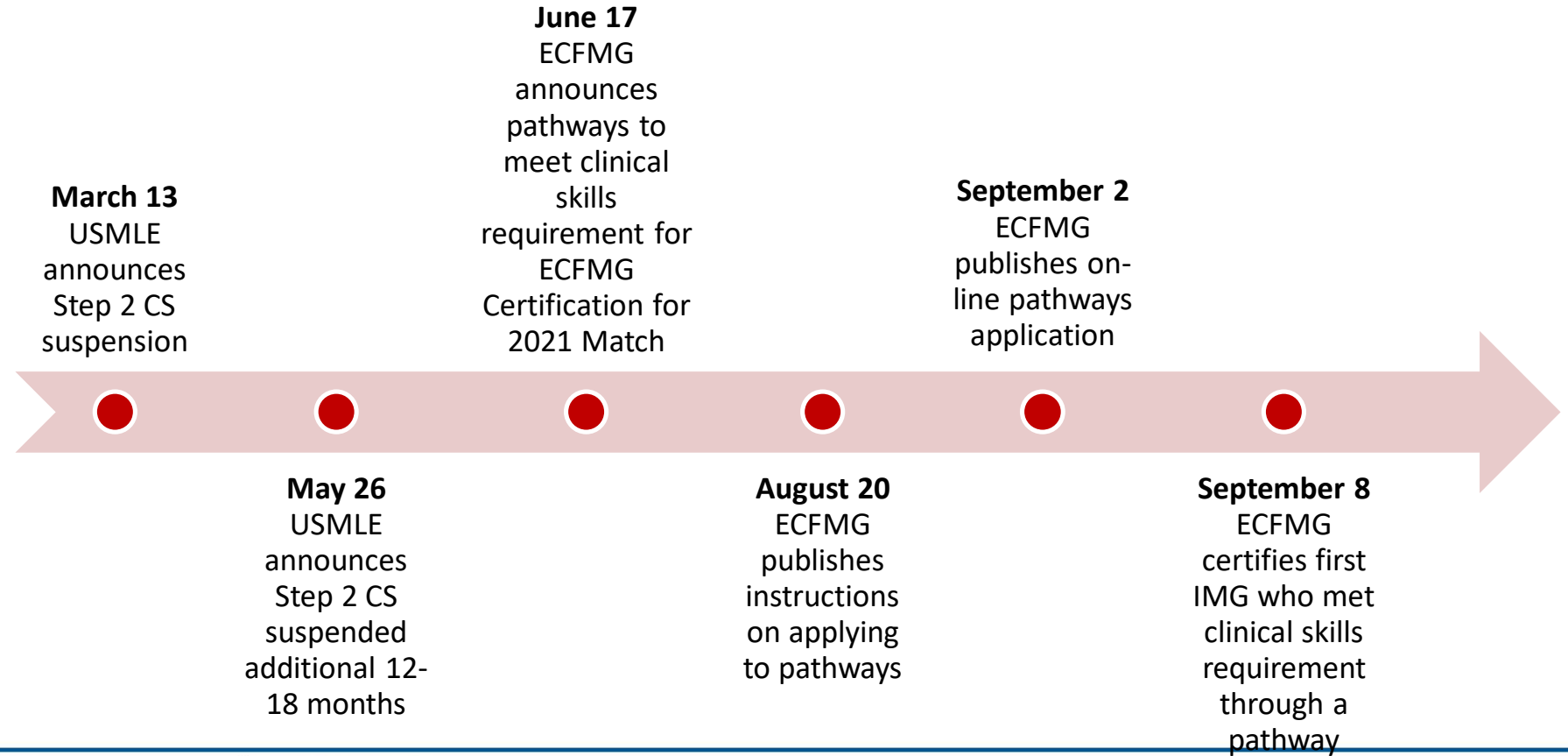


ECFMG Certification

- Has operated continuously for nearly 70 years
- ECFMG sets requirements and determines which exams meet its requirements
- Requirements/acceptable exams have changed over time
- Demonstration of clinical skills and English language proficiency *always* have been requirements

ECFMG, in its discretion, has developed pathways for IMGs to meet the clinical skills and English language proficiency requirements, in light of suspension of Step 2 CS.

Step 2 CS Suspension and Pathways Timeline



Components

- 1 Five Pathways
- 2 English Language Proficiency Assessment
- 3 Certificate Subject to Expiration
- 4 General Eligibility Requirements
- 5 Exception Process

Intended to provide options for qualified IMGs to participate in accredited GME.

ICE Proposal to Eliminate “Duration of Status”

Proposed Rule Change

- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) proposal to change the way that certain nonimmigrant visa holders (incl. J-1 physicians) extend their period of authorized stay in U.S.
- Replace “duration of status” with a specific end date
- J-1 physicians impacted differently than any other category

Result

Immediate and devastating impact on U.S. health care

- Thousands of J-1 physicians will need to apply for an extension of status annually through the government
- Lengthy process with no definitive processing times
- Chaos for teaching hospitals
- Disruption to J-1 physician training and the patient care that they provide

A “solution” to a problem that doesn’t exist

Save “Duration of Status,” Protect U.S. Health Care

Advocacy Efforts

- Created an advocacy toolkit to organizations in U.S. medical education and health care
- Formal Opposition to the Rule Change
 - Board Resolution
 - Joint objection letter to ICE
 - **Official joint comment letters**
- Outreach to lawmakers and the media

Goal

Secure an exemption to proposed rule change for J-1 physicians



IMG Volume Indicators for 2021 Match

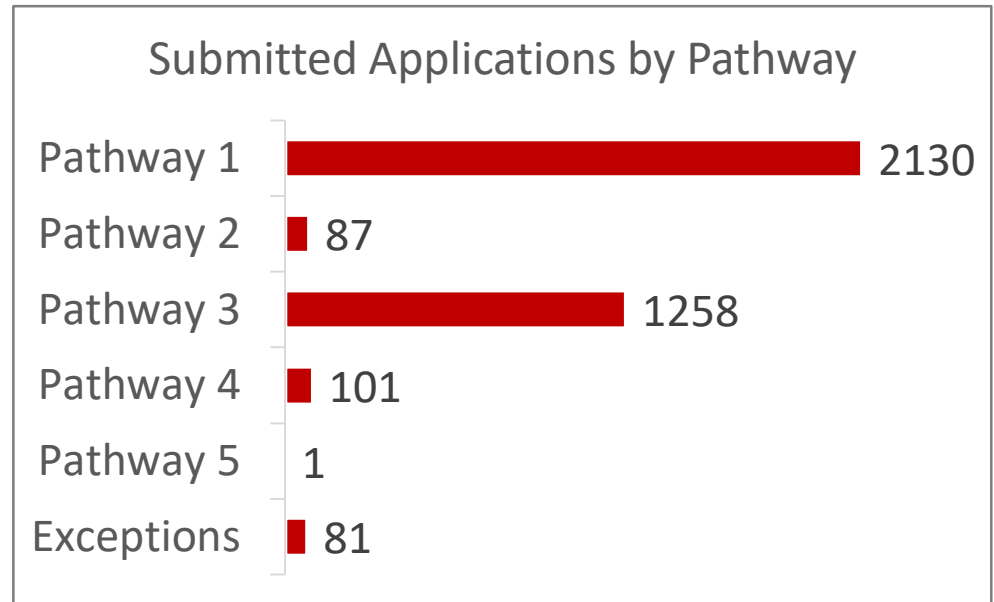
ERAS[®] 2021 Residency Tokens

- More than 21,000 tokens issued to IMGs, as of October 2020
- Comparable to number issued as of this time last year

IMG Volume Indicators for 2021 Match

Pathways Applications, as of mid-October 2020

- 3,650+ applications submitted
- 790+ applications approved
- 340+ ECFMG Certificates issued based on a pathway



ECFMG | FAIMER Well-being Survey

- Extending beyond regulatory obligation to continuous well-being monitoring
- Goal of developing resources to help foreign national physicians in residency/fellowship programs succeed in the U.S. healthcare system
- Well-being survey gathered data to better understand factors associated with well-being of foreign national physicians participating in U.S. graduate medical education



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