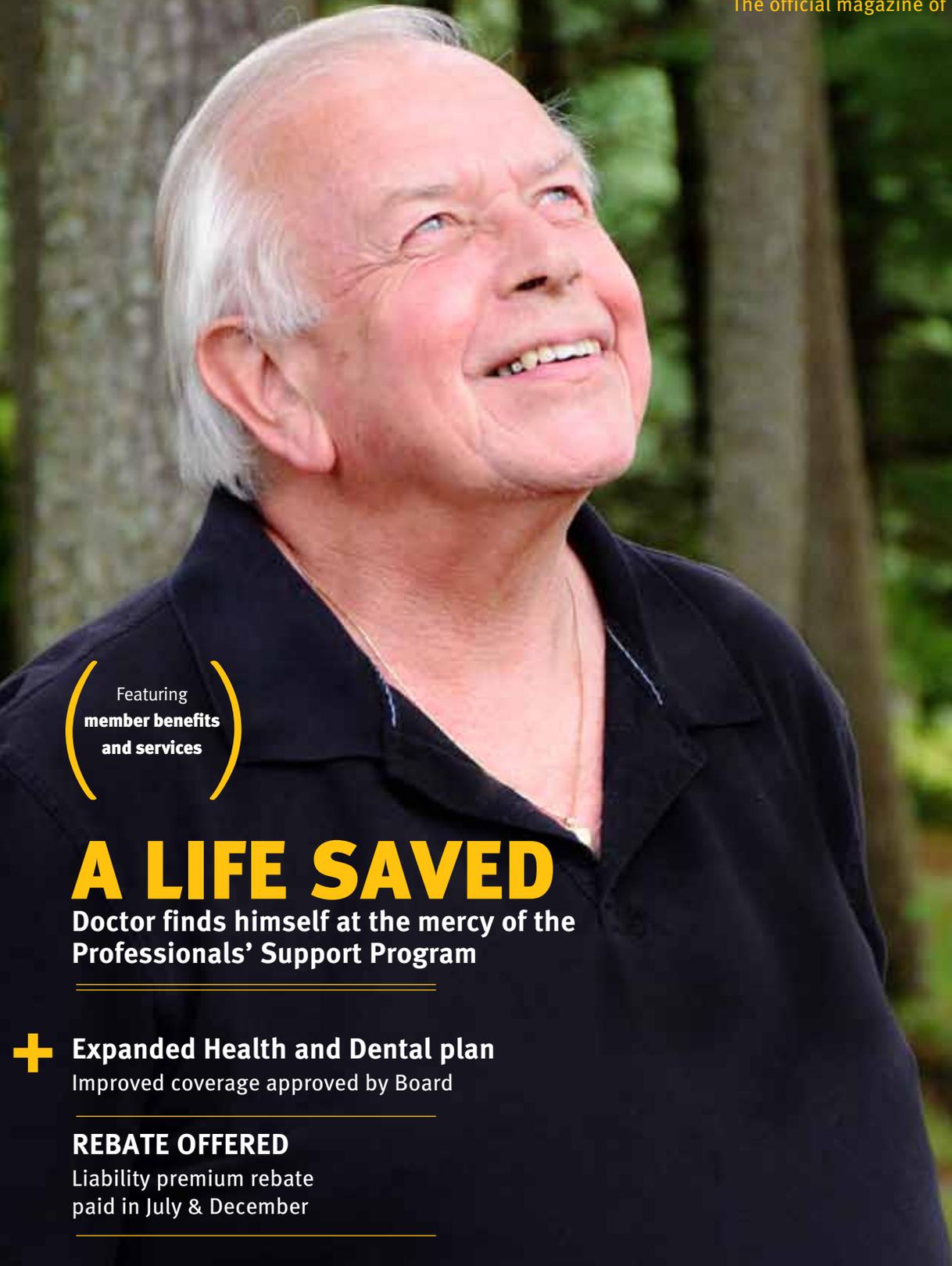


# doctorsNS

The official magazine of Doctors Nova Scotia



Featuring  
**member benefits  
and services**

## **A LIFE SAVED**

Doctor finds himself at the mercy of the Professionals' Support Program

**+** **Expanded Health and Dental plan**  
Improved coverage approved by Board

### **REBATE OFFERED**

Liability premium rebate  
paid in July & December

# Program shows IMGs health-care nuances

## Knowledge of cultural context of medical practice not found in medical textbooks

By JAN SHEPPARD KUTCHER

Immigrant Settlement & Integration Services

**A** program which matches Canadian licensed physicians with international medical graduates (IMGs) is one of the few avenues providing an opportunity to learn about the nuances – both cultural and practical – of the Canadian health-care system.

The IMG Clinical Observership Program provides such learning

through observation and exposure to a real-life Canadian practice. It's a collaboration between Doctors Nova Scotia, Immigrant Settlement & Integration Services (ISIS), and the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine.

When IMGs arrive in Nova Scotia as permanent residents, they bring with them personal and professional hopes and dreams. They also bring medical school education, post-graduate training and, frequently, years of clinical experience which they are keen to put to work in Canada.

Their additional languages and understanding of myriad cultures are "value adds" with the potential to support

the delivery of more culturally and linguistically sensitive health-care services. Although an eclectic group from countries around the world, IMGs share certain characteristics. They are fiercely determined, goal-oriented, organized and coura-

geous. IMGs are risk-takers and lifelong learners.

Without these strengths, they would, quite simply, never be immigrants in the first place. As physicians, IMGs understand the need for high standards of medical knowledge and practice. Facing a daunting series of hurdles on the route to licensure, they roll up their sleeves to prepare for the series of qualifying exams and the enormous challenges beyond.

From country to country, region to region, however, there are inevitably differences and variations in the way medicine is practiced. This "culture of practice" includes patient/physician relationships, communication styles, norms of professional behavior, and approaches to clinical work and treatment planning. In Iran, for example, it's considered unethical to inform an elderly patient they have terminal cancer. This isn't, by nature, a better or worse course of action from what would occur in Canada; it's just different.

Knowledge of the cultural context of medical practice is embedded in all the professional medical examinations, Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCEs), and clinical evaluations. It's essential knowledge for successful Canadian practice. Despite its critical importance, it's not found in standard medical textbooks.

For an IMG, the advantages of participation in the clinical observership program are clear. For a Canadian licensed physician, hav-

ing another clinician in the office can be stimulating and operationally helpful.

IMG observers can perform duties such as chart reviews, medication list up-dates, and weight and blood pressure tests. They can research clinical questions, develop patient education materials, and gather information about community resources -- all of which stand to improve the quality and efficiency of a practice.

Professional discussions with an IMG observer enable the Canadian physician to learn about international health-care systems, medical practice, and patient interactions thereby heightening cultural competency as a primary care physician working with an increasingly diverse patient population in Nova Scotia.

IMG Clinical Observership Program guidelines are set by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia, and prior approval is required. A flexible program, it can be adapted to each physician's needs and schedule, and provides a special opportunity to assist a potential colleague.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE IMG CLINICAL OBSERVERSHIP PROGRAM, CONTACT:

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## IMG Clinical Observership Program

Drs. Farouk Awad, Ibrahim, Desokyey, and Nocon are looking for opportunities to be a part of the IMG Clinical Observership program, and obtaining exposure to real-life Canadian practice.

PHYSICIANS INTERESTED IN THE PROGRAM CAN CONTACT:

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### DR. SARA FAROUK AWAD

Dr. Sara Farouk Awad received her bachelor degree in medicine and surgery (MBBS) from University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. She completed a one-year postgraduate medical internship at Ministry of Health Hospitals in United Arab Emirates in September 2011. Dr. Awad is interested in Internal medicine. She is working hard to get into a residency program in Canada and has passed the MCCEE, MCCQE1 and is preparing for spring 2012 MCCQEII. She is fluent in both written and spoken English (TOEFL iBT 102/120) and Arabic languages.



### DR. ESSAM IBRAHIM

Dr. Essam Ibrahim completed a medical degree from the College of Medicine, Cairo University. He also completed a postgraduate residency in general surgery and another postgraduate residency in urology. He worked as a general surgeon for over 12 years. He is experienced in surgical, diagnostic, and patient care services including inpatient and outpatient management. Dr. Ibrahim passed the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Exam. His participation in the International Medical Graduates Clinical Orientation Program enhanced his knowledge of the Canadian health-care system.



### DR. OMNEYA DESOKYEY

Dr. Omneya Desokyey completed a medical doctorate in cardio-thoracic surgery, masters degree in general surgery, and medical diploma from Menoffia University and Cairo University in Egypt. She completed a four-year residency in cardio-thoracic surgery. Dr. Desokyey worked as a lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University. Recently she completed MCCEE and MCCQ1 with the Medical Council of Canada. Dr. Desokyey is interested in adult cardiac surgery, especially heart valve surgery repair.



### DR. BRIAN CHRISTOPHER M. NOCON

Dr. Brian Christopher M. Nocon moved to Canada in September 2008 after completing his medical degree in 2007. In August 2008 he completed his post-graduate medical internship and wrote the Philippine Physicians' Licensure Examination. Since moving to Canada he's passed the MCCEE and MCCQE1. He has worked as a phlebotomist for the Atlantic Partnership for Tomorrow's Health (PATH) project and now serves as the Laboratory Manager and is working on an epidemiologic research project which aims to better understand the role of the environment in the development of certain diseases, in particular, cancer. He is preparing to take the MCCQE2 this month and hopes to get into residency training in the future.