



March 16, 2012

Dr. Salma Zafar
President
Association of Physicians of
Pakistani Descent of North America
3762 Turnberry Drive
West Des Moines, IA 50265-5313

Dear Dr. Zafar:

There is significant interest in the issue of visa delays and J-1 physicians entering graduate medical education. As the sponsor of all J-1 physicians in clinical training, the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG®) is required to collect and enter various data in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) for the J-1 physicians we sponsor. The SEVIS database was implemented by the Department of Homeland Security to manage data for all foreign national students and scholars in the United States, including ECFMG-sponsored J-1 physicians. SEVIS data collection requirements include information on the date that a J-1 physician reports to the training program.

The attached information release and chart summarize the data ECFMG has accumulated as of March 5, 2012 regarding the arrival status of J-1 physicians commencing graduate medical education between June 1, 2011 and July 31, 2011. The data pertain only to physicians beginning their initial year of sponsorship. It does not include J-1 physicians who have been sponsored in previous years and are continuing their training.

If you have any questions regarding this material, please feel free to contact me via telephone (215-823-2107) or e-mail (sseeling@ecfm.org).

Sincerely,

Stephen S. Seeling, JD
Vice President for Operations

SSS/lrs
Enclosures

cc: Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Tariq
Emmanuel G. Cassimatis, MD