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**ECFMG Releases Country Breakdown and Arrival Status of J-1 Physicians**

*Philadelphia – March 16, 2012* – 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, ECFMG is required to collect and enter various data into 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 U.S., 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.

There were a total of 2,015 J-1 physicians in their first year of sponsorship with a scheduled start date between June 1, 2011 and July 31, 2011. As of March 5, 2012, we verified that 1,955 (97.0%) of these had actually arrive at the program and commenced training. Of the 1,955 individuals who have arrived, 1,699 (86.9%) arrived at their programs on time, i.e., on or before their contractual start date. This pertains 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. Attached is a chart summarizing the data, broken down by country of legal permanent residence (LPR) of the J-1 physicians.

The following chart provides a nine-year comparison of the number of J-1 physicians in their first year of sponsorship with scheduled start dates between June 1 and July 31.

Academic Year*	Total J-1s Sponsored	Arrived		Arrived on Time	
		#	% of Total	#	% of Arrived
2011-2012	2,015	1,955	97%	1,699	87%
2010-2011	1,814	1,778	98%	1,715	97%
2009-2010	1,866	1,822	98%	1,684	92%
2008-2009	1,717	1,662	97%	1,455	88%
2007-2008	1,525	1,520	99%	1,282	84%
2006-2007	1,412	1,407	99%	1,134	81%
2005-2006	1,325	1,274	96%	992	78%
2004-2005	1,309	1,215	93%	927	76%
2003-2004	1,133	1,053	93%	649	62%

\* Data is as of March of that academic year.

In 2011-2012, the top three source countries are India (527), Canada (343), and Pakistan (116).

The following chart provides a nine-year comparison of the top three source countries.

Countries by Academic Year*									
Country	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
India	142	192	227	298	333	454	532	470	527
Canada	131	169	184	174	198	209	267	317	343
Pakistan	154	157	103	94	109	107	103	93	116

\* Data is as of March of that academic year.