



March 19, 2020

Dear Externs,

Hope you are all well and keeping safe during these challenging times. Things are rapidly evolving and unfortunately much has changed since our last communication to you.

Given the current situation, the AIMG Program, in consultation with the Postgraduate Deans at University of Alberta and University of Calgary, **will be postponing Externship**. This decision was not made lightly, and is a reflection of the need to ensure appropriate physician utilization and to protect the health of faculty, staff, patients, and Externs in accordance with current Public Health recommendations.

The postponement of the Externship assessment will apply to both the orientation and clinical Externship periods. The orientation was originally scheduled for April 14, 2020. As the situation is quite fluid, we do not have an exact date for when orientation will now occur. However, we are exploring alternative formats in place of in classroom delivery for the orientation including virtual delivery.

Similarly, we are also unable to provide an exact date for when the clinical portion of externship will commence. It will, however, likely be sometime after July 1, 2020 (not April 27<sup>th</sup>/May 4<sup>th</sup> as originally scheduled).

As we gain more clarity around scheduling and dates, we will contact you. **It is clear at this time that International Medical Graduates will not be starting as residents on July 1, 2020.**

These are trying times and we want to thank you for your understanding and for your commitment to the health of all Canadians. For those of you that will be financially impacted by this decision, please refer to the Government of Canada website for resources available to you: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>



Please also do not obtain any of the licensing that would be required prior to the start of Externship at this time. This includes Canadian Medical Protective Agency Coverage and College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta. (Unless you are involved in clinical work in other capacities which necessitates this and plan to continue until Externship commences e.g. Clinical Assistants.)

There are also a number of volunteer opportunities with 811/Public Health should any of you be interested. Many of the University of Alberta and University of Calgary medical students have engaged in these opportunities while their clerkship is also postponed. For those of you interested please email Dr. Jia Hu at [jia.hu@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:jia.hu@albertahealthservices.ca). Please note such opportunities have no connection to either of the Universities or the AIMG Program.

We are truly sorry to deliver this disappointing news. We know this is not the information that you wanted to hear but we can assure you that this decision was made for the safety of all. If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the AIMG program at [aimg@ucalgary.ca](mailto:aimg@ucalgary.ca). We will do our best to support you as much as we can during these challenging times.

We will continue to provide updates as we have them and please also check our website and twitter regularly. Thank you again for your understanding.

The AIMG Program

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rabiya Jalil'.

Dr. Rabiya Jalil, BSc, MD, CCFP  
Medical Director  
Alberta International Medical Graduate Program

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'C. Maria Bacchus'.

Dr. C. Maria Bacchus, MD, MSc, FRCPS  
Executive Director  
Alberta International Medical Graduate Program