

# Healthcare Navigation in Alberta: How can we employ International Medical Graduates to improve healthcare access and utilization

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# About AIMGA

*Helping IMGs Across  
Canada Succeed &  
Bringing Diversity  
to Healthcare*

## AIMGA has 3000+ members

AIMGA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the successful integration of International Medical Graduates (IMGs). We believe our clients have a contribution to make within our communities. (Updated: October 3, 2023)



**2523**

Active Members



**1636**

Female



**847**

Male

**5** Non-Binary

**35** Unspecified

**70%**

are younger than  
45 years of age

**59%**

have been out of  
practice less than 3 years

**500**

Seeking jobs  
in healthcare



**609**

Calgary

**348**

Edmonton

**188**

Rural Alberta

**1378**

Out of province

**1289**

Permanent Residents /  
Refugees

**448**

Other / Pre-arrivals

**744**

Canadian Citizens

**42**

Not Specified

### Top 10 Countries of Origin



103 Total Countries

**1 729**

Nigeria

**2 360**

Pakistan

**3 248**

India

**4 117**

Canada

**5 84**

Iran

**6 73**

Bangladesh

**7 72**

Egypt

**8 59**

Philippines

**9 43**

Sudan

**10 37**

Saudi Arabia

### Top 10 Specialties



**1 1424**

Family Medicine / GP

**2 159**

Internal Medicine

**3 104**

OBGYN

**4 100**

Pediatrics

**5 61**

Surgery

**6 56**

Anaesthesia

**7 37**

Radiology

**8 34**

Emergency Medicine

**9 30**

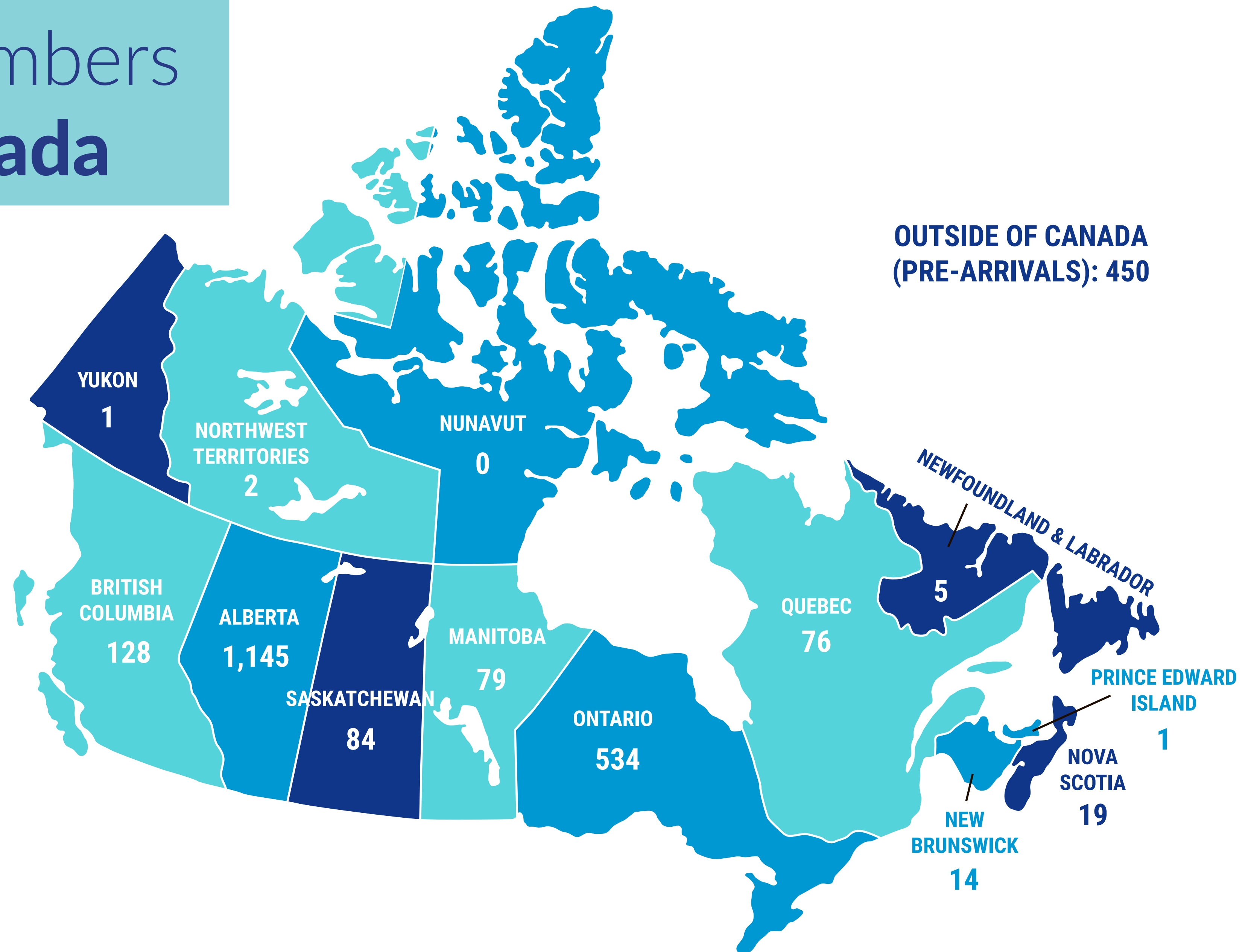
Ophthalmology

**10 18**

Dermatology

# AIMGA Members Across Canada

Updated on October 4, 2023



# Underutilization of IMGs in Canada

**The majority of IMGs remain underutilized**

**1**

**Bottleneck  
in licensing process**

**2**

**Systemic Barriers  
& Discrimination**

**3**

**Cost of pursuing  
licensure**

**4**

**Lack of awareness  
& limited supports**

How can we utilize the knowledge and skills  
**of International Medical Graduates in community?**




# AIMGA's HealthHub



***"Thank you so much for talking to me, it is therapeutic to talk to someone I trust during these difficult times. I am glad to see that there are people who want to make things better for our communities"***

# The Creation of our Health and Wellness Team

**HEALTHHUB** ABOUT CALENDAR SERVICES LICENSURE OTHER CAREERS COMMUNITY BLOG




**Sameer Abbas**

**Specialties:**  
General Practice

**Additional Languages:**  
Hindi, Urdu

**Countries of Practice:**  
India

**Bio:**  
Sameer Abbas is a value driven International Medical Graduate from India who believes in compassion, empathy, and accessible healthcare for all. He completed his Bachelor's degree in medicine from India after which he worked as a medical intern at a [...]



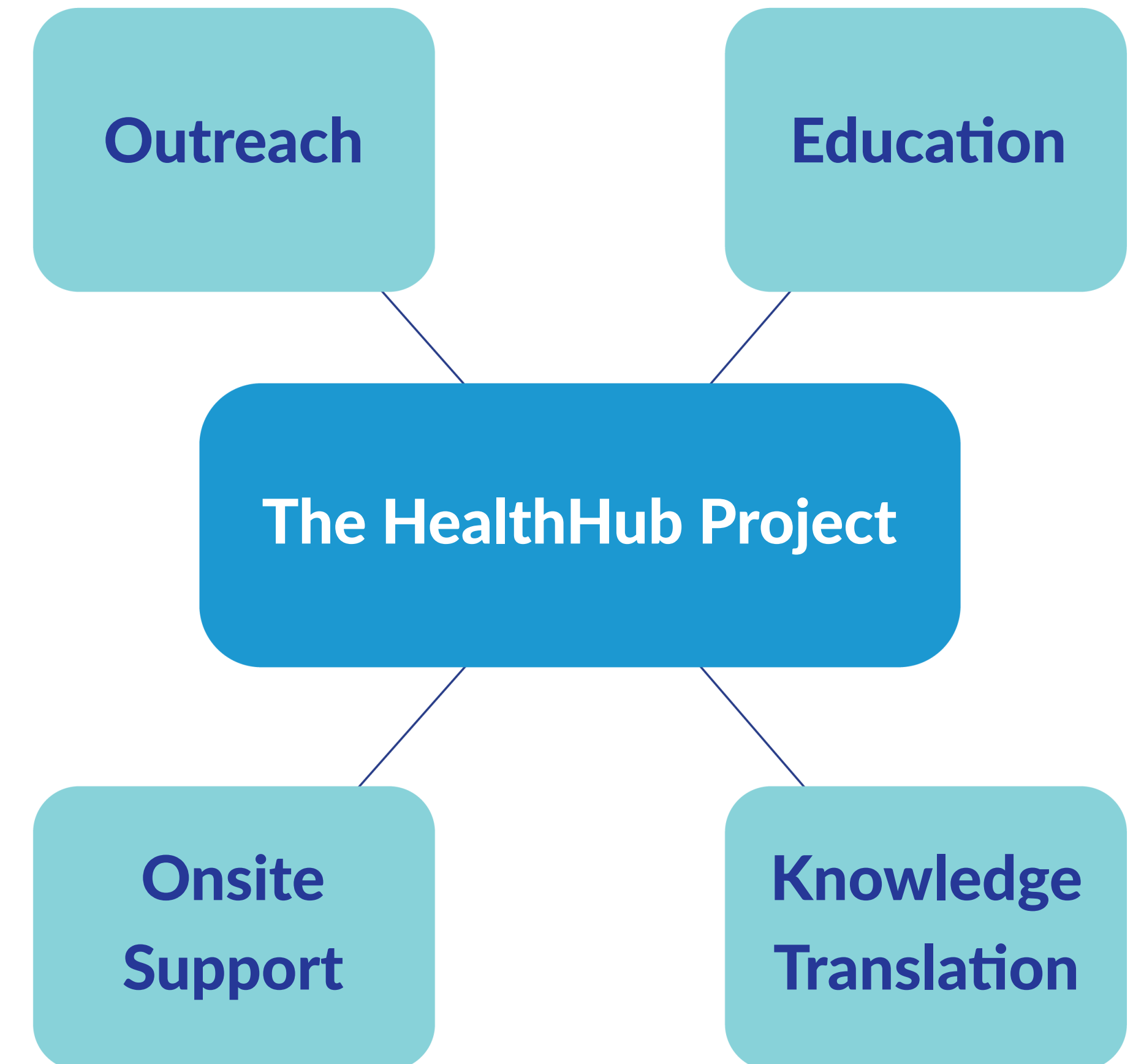
**Sara Abraha**

**Specialties:**  
General Practitioner

**Additional Languages:**  
Tigrinyan, Arabic

**Countries of Practice:**  
Sudan

**Bio:**  
Originally from Eritrea, Sara Abraha is an International Medical Graduate who was born and raised in Khartoum, Sudan. Her passion for medicine started when she encountered women and girls suffering due to lack of adequate healthcare and resources ranging [...]



**150+ members create our Health and Wellness Team  
and Vaccine Support Line**

# Community Outreach



AIMGA has provided supports in over 20 languages



## Community and Workplace Vaccine Clinics

Total Vaccine Clinics Participated in: 295

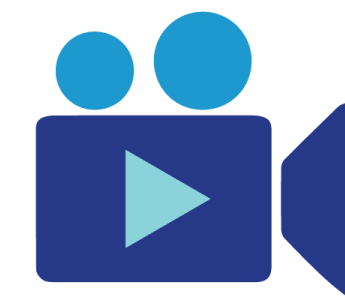


AIMGA members presenting to Amazon workers



## Vaccine Related Phone Calls

Total calls: 2,093



## Videos

Total Number of Videos: 493

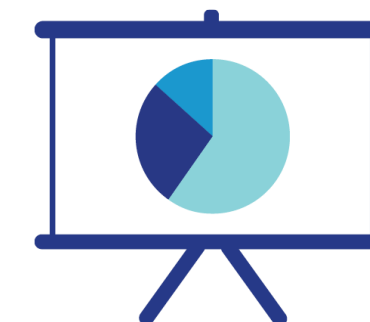
Total Video Views: 218.5K



## Podcasts

Total Number of Podcasts created: 63

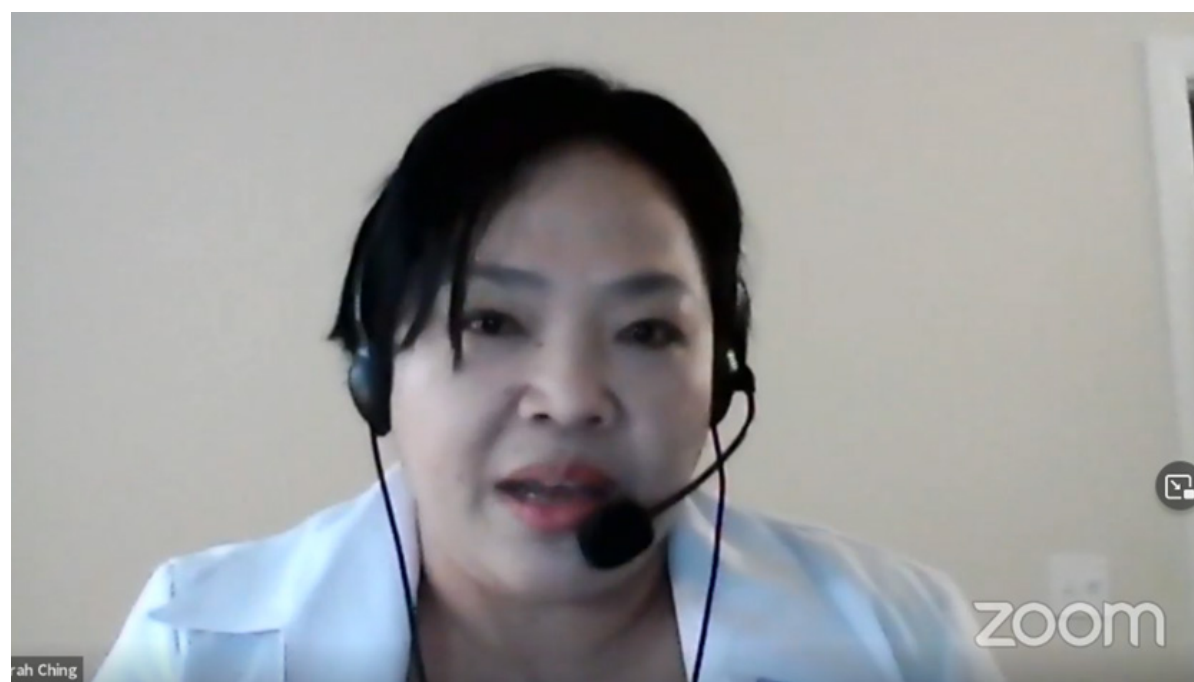
Total Downloads: 1,867



## Presentations / Townhalls

Total Presentations/Townhalls: 62

Outreach: 800+ community members



AIMGA member presenting via the Pinoy TV Special Live



## Webinars

Total Webinars: 42+

Total Attendees: 22,784

# Barriers to Healthcare Access for Newcomers



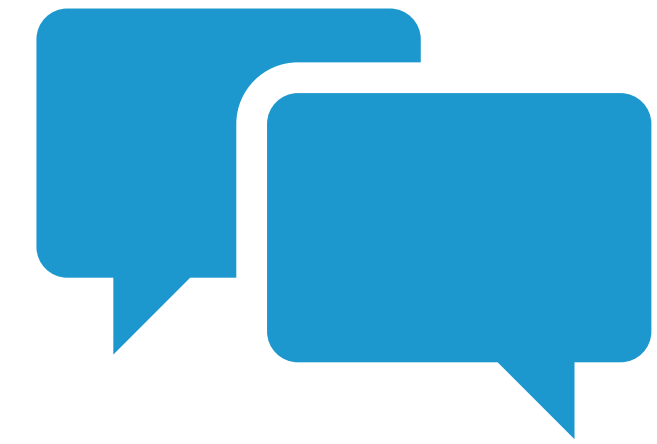
## Patients struggle

to understand medical information,  
hindering proper care



## Limited language skills

can lead to misunderstandings  
and inadequate treatment



## Different cultural backgrounds

may cause confusion and mistrust  
in healthcare

# Patient Navigator Program

**54 Participants**

**36 Completed**

**18 In-Progress**

This program is designed to bridge highly skilled international medical graduates (IMGs) into a non-physician occupation in the area of patient navigation, health promotion, health facilitation and community-engaged research. It is comprised of the following components:

## Components:

- 1 Community Interpreter Training Certificate
- 2 Patient Navigator Certificate
- 3 Overview Of The Canadian/Alberta Health Care System
- 4 Health Promotion / Community Connections
- 5 Community Engaged Research
- 6 Work Placement/Mentorship
- 7 Workplace & Career Readiness



# PATIENT NAVIGATOR PROGRAM: INTAKE 3, 2023



Amarachi  
Nwokolo



Asad Ullah



Chisom  
Ezemenahi



Fakhriyya  
Aghabayli



Fatima Shahid



Huda Hamid  
Khan



Joy Cenu



Lamia Sarker



Luza Zapata



Maryem Hamid



Nadira Ali



Ngozi Agbanusi



Ninsa Firshah



Noreen Rifat



Rania Kholossy



Safa Ahmed



Shaziah Zaidi



Ugochukwu  
(Ugo) Osigwe

# Della's Story

1

Holds a Master's  
in Clinical Medicine

2

Worked as an AHS Service Worker  
in the operating room

3

Actively volunteered in  
community including local  
YMCA and school initiatives

4

Joined AIMGA's HealthHub Team:  
contributed to health promotion campaigns  
for the Mandarin-speaking community  
(COVID-19 and Cancer Screening)

5

Accepted into the Masters  
of Public Health Program at UofA

6

Accepted into Family Medicine  
residency program at UofA



Former participant of AIMGA's  
Health and Wellness team and  
Patient Navigator Program

# Call to **Action**

## **Policy Advocacy**

Advocate for policies and funding  
to create patient navigator  
jobs for IMGs

## **Raising Awareness**

Raise awareness of the talents  
of IMGs and the impacts  
of the program

Showcasing success stories  
of IMGs helping patients  
navigate healthcare

## **Engagement with Health Organizations**

Engage health organizations  
in employing IMGs to improve  
healthcare delivery and patient care

# Solution **to both**

**Employing IMGs in supporting newcomer patients to navigate the healthcare is an effective way to address utilizing IMGs to support the healthcare in Canada**



# HEALTHHUB FOR NEWCOMERS



**Health Matters!  
Wellness Matters!  
Diversity Matters!**

# Thank you!

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Alberta International Medical Graduate Association

[www.aimga.ca](http://www.aimga.ca)