

Program Trains Immigrant Doctors to Help Bridge Major Gaps in Care

For millions who live in critically underserved areas, immigrant doctors are life savers

UCLA Health

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NEWS PACKAGE


SUGGESTED TEASE	STILL TO COME, DETAILS ON A SEVERE SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS IN THIS COUNTRY - AND HOW A PROGRAM THAT TRAINS FOREIGN DOCTORS IS HELPING TO FILL THAT GAP. THAT'S NEXT IN HEALTH NEWS.
ANCHOR LEAD	<p>WE'RE IN THE MIDST OF A DOCTOR SHORTAGE CRISIS IN THIS COUNTRY.</p> <p>WITHIN THE NEXT DECADE, EXPERTS PREDICT A SHORTFALL OF UP TO 95 THOUSAND DOCTORS¹ - AND A THIRD OF THOSE VACANCIES COULD BE FAMILY DOCTORS.</p> <p>ONE PROGRAM THAT TRAINS DOCTORS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IS HELPING TO FILL THOSE GAPS, AND IS CHANGING LIVES AT THE SAME TIME. CLARK POWELL HAS DETAILS.</p>
(PACKAGE START) -----	(Nats - Rural shots) :02
CG: Courtesy: UCLA Health :00 - :03	THERE ARE FEW PLACES IN THE U.S. WITH BIGGER HEALTH PROBLEMS THAN CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL VALLEY, WHERE HIGH DISEASE RATES AND DOCTOR SHORTAGES ARE SEVERE. IN KINGS COUNTY , THERE IS ONE PRIMARY PHYSICIAN FOR ABOUT EVERY THREE THOUSAND PEOPLE ² - THREE TIMES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE . ³
Shots of Hanford, CA	A SHORTAGE ONLY MADE WORSE BY LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL BARRIERS. :16
Shots of farm workers	
Shot of doctors in exam room	
Shot of patient walking	
CG: Michelle Bholat, MD UCLA Health	<i>"Only five percent of California practicing physicians actually are Hispanic. Yet, 39 percent of the population is Hispanic."</i> :08
Shot of Dr. Hernandez in exam	IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE HEALTHCARE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO <u>ALL</u> PATIENTS, U-C-L-A REACHES OUT TO IMMIGRANT PHYSICIANS LIKE DOCTOR JOSE JAVIER HERNANDEZ.
Shots of patient exam	AFTER GETTING A MEDICAL DEGREE IN MEXICO, HE CAME TO UCLA IN THE HOPES OF GETTING INTO A FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY AND EARNING A LICENSE TO PRACTICE IN THE U.S.
Shots of farm workers	

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<p>CG: Jose Javier Hernandez, MD UCLA IMG Program Graduate</p> <p>Shots of doctors training IMG students</p> <p>Shots of Dr. Biddy looking at chest x-ray on computer</p> <p>Shots of exam with Roselle</p> <p>Close up of Dr. Hernandez</p> <p>CG: Roselle Martinez Patient</p> <p>Shots of Dr. Biddy looking at images</p> <p>Shots of exam with Hernandez</p> <p>Dr. Bholat (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of exam</p> <p>Shots wrapping up exam</p> <p>(PACKAGE END) -----</p> <p>ANCHOR TAG</p>	<p>HERNANDEZ WORKED IN THE FIELDS HERE GROWING UP AND SAW THE NEED FOR CARE FIRST HAND.:15</p> <p><i>“To have a provider that speaks their language and understand their culture, it makes a huge difference.” :05</i></p> <p>IN ITS TENTH YEAR, THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATE PROGRAM SELECTS THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST IMMIGRANT DOCTORS AND PUTS THEM THROUGH RIGOROUS TRAINING.</p> <p>IN EXCHANGE, DOCTORS WHO QUALIFY, AGREE TO PRACTICE 2 TO 3 YEARS WHERE PRIMARY CARE DOCTORS ARE NEEDED MOST.</p> <p>TAKING CARE OF PATIENTS LIKE ROSELLE MARTINEZ. WHEN SHE EXPERIENCED CHEST PAINS RECENTLY, HER HUSBAND RUSHED HER TO THE E-R, WHERE DOCTOR HERNANDEZ WAS READY TO HELP. :25</p> <p><i>“Which is good, because my husband doesn’t speak English. He speaks pure Spanish, so it was good that he explained to him what was going on with me.” :08</i></p> <p>THE 2 TO 3 YEARS THESE DOCTORS SPEND PRACTICING IN UNDERSERVED AREAS HELPS TO FILL CRITICAL GAPS IN PATIENT CARE - BUT COORDINATORS HAVE NOTICE A ENCOURAGING TREND. :09</p> <p><i>“Of the individuals that have graduated, and could go work wherever they wanted to, 75 percent remained in the underserved communities.” :10</i></p> <p>WHICH MEANS A PROGRAM THAT CHANGED THE LIVES OF THESE IMMIGRANT DOCTORS, IS HAVING AN IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF THEIR PATIENTS - WHO MIGHT HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN OVERLOOKED.</p> <p>AT UCLA HEALTH, THIS IS CLARK POWELL REPORTING. :11</p> <hr/> <p>THE PROGRAM TRAINS DOCTORS NOT ONLY FROM MEXICO, BUT CUBA, PERU AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA.</p> <p>IT IS FUNDED ENTIRELY THROUGH PRIVATE DONATIONS.</p>
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SOCIAL MEDIA

<p> Share it! Suggested tweet:</p>	<p>To bridge a doctor shortage in this country, @UCLAHealth is training doctors from other countries</p>
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Suggested post:

and the results are inspiring. bit.ly/2rr1gPM

We are in the midst of a doctor shortage crisis that, by 2025, could leave the United States with a shortfall of as many as 95,000 doctors. Nearly one in three vacancies will be primary care physicians, who are often the first line of care in medicine. To help bridge the doctor shortage in this country, a program at UCLA Health is turning to doctors from other countries. The International Medical Graduate program takes the best and brightest physicians from Latin America and, after rigorous training, helps place them in areas of the U.S. where patients are desperately underserved. The results are inspiring: bit.ly/2rr1gPM

EXTRA BITES

**CG: Michelle Bholat, MD
UCLA Health**

Bholat explains why the IMG Program is unique:
“What I think makes this special is our program has individuals themselves who are new immigrants to this country.”

Bholat says IMG students get the same training as US doctors:
“We don’t want anyone here in the state or elsewhere to think that they’re getting a doctor that has not been fully vetted. They’ve been vetted through the same process of testing that a US student is asked to perform.”

Hernandez says his parents inspired him to become a doctor:
“Just seeing the challenges that they have to get access to health care, in their own language, something that’s sensitive to their culture and their own needs.”

Hernandez says he can relate to his patients:
“That was a job that I had to do as well. You know, we got here, we had to, you know, provide for my family, I was working in the fields, I worked with my dad.”

**CG: Jose Javier Hernandez, MD
UCLA IMG Program**

Hernandez says Spanish-speaking patients open up to him:
“A lot of times I’ve heard phrases like, you know ‘I’ve never told anybody, but this is what’s happening.’ That’s very, very rewarding to me.”

Hernandez talks about the connection he has with patients:
“They really connect with you on a more personal level. And they feel like family.”

**CG: Edna Elvira Bidy, MD
UCLA IMG Program**

Biddy shares her grandmother’s only wish for US doctors:
“She said but there’s only one thing that I would change. I would prefer my doctor to know how to speak Spanish.”

Biddy says Spanish-speaking patients feel at ease with her:
“They feel welcome. They open up about things they

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<p>CG: Edna Elvira Bidy, MD UCLA IMG Program</p>	<p><i>haven't said to their primary care doctors, and they feel happy."</i></p> <p>Bidy says making patients comfortable and happy is crucial: <i>"And a happy patient is more likely to be more compliant, too."</i></p>
<p>CG: Roselle Martinez Patient</p>	<p>Martinez says her doctor spoke to her on a cultural level: <i>"He went in and we talked and everything, and asked me all the questions. And then he, all of the sudden, he just closed the curtain and said 'OK, now we get down to business.'"</i></p> <p>Martinez says it helps having a doctor of similar heritage: <i>"Really good. Knowing that he spoke Spanish and I spoke Spanish, it was great."</i></p>

References

- ¹*The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections from 2014 to 2025*, **Association of American Medical Colleges, April 2016**. Online: https://www.aamc.org/download/458082/data/2016_complexities_of_supply_and_demand_projections.pdf.
- ²*Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) (Map)*, **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2017**. Online map of Kings County, California: <https://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/Tools/MapToolQuick.aspx?mapName=HPSAPC>
- Health Professional Shortage Areas and Scoring, March 22, 2017*. **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**. Online (Slide 10): <https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/corpsexperience/aboutus/nationaladvisorycouncil/meetingsummaries/03-17-shortage-designation.pdf>
- ³*America's Health Rankings*, **United Health Foundation, 2015**. Online: <http://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/2015-annual-report/measure/PCP/state/ALL>

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