



ICIC

INDIANA CENTER FOR INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Assessing discourse knowledge of medical residents

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IUPUI

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Some Medical Specialties

- Anesthesiology
 - Dermatology
 - Family Medicine
 - Neurology
 - Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - Pathology
 - Psychiatry
 - Urology
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Medical Specialty Training System in U.S.

Medical Graduate in Residency Program

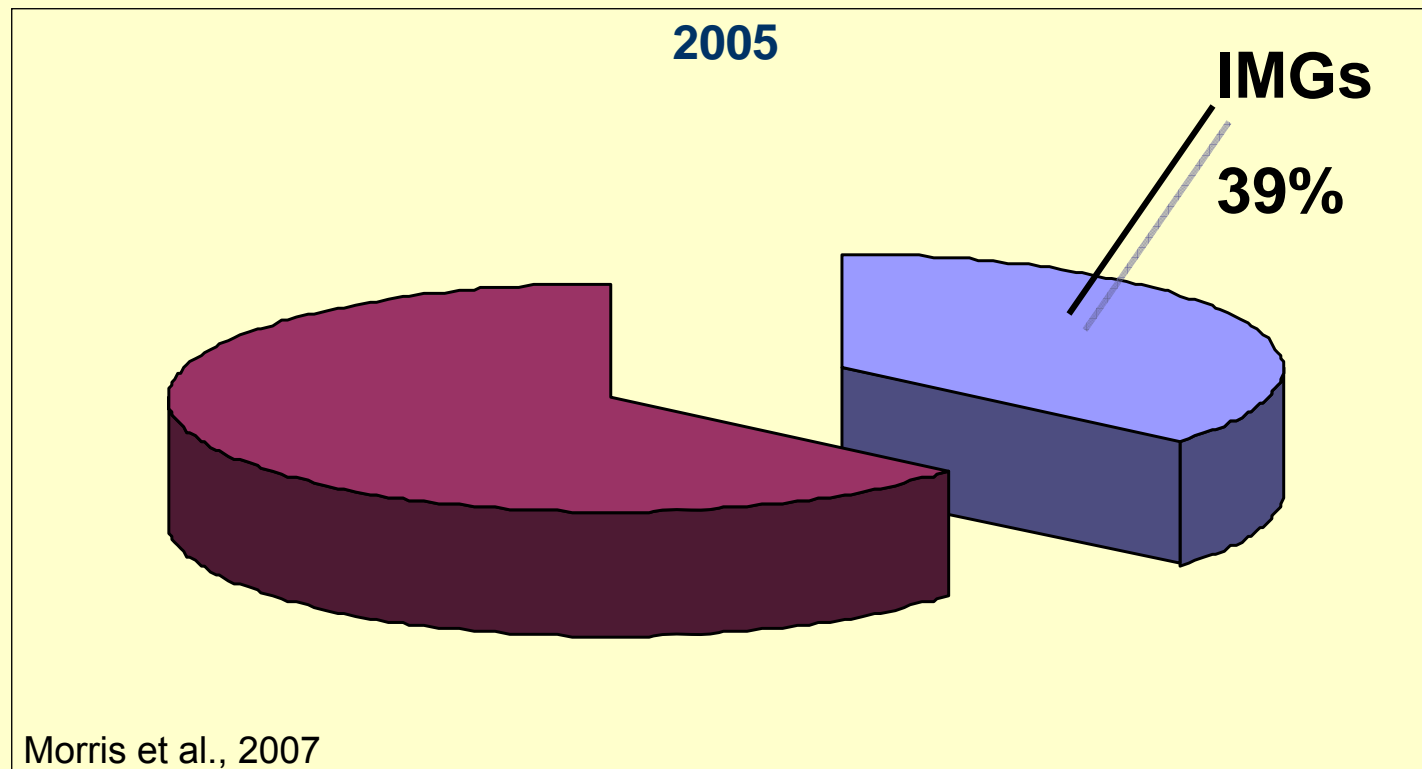
- apprenticeship
- aim is specialty certification
- usually 3 years

International Medical Graduate (IMG):

- graduate of a medical school outside North America

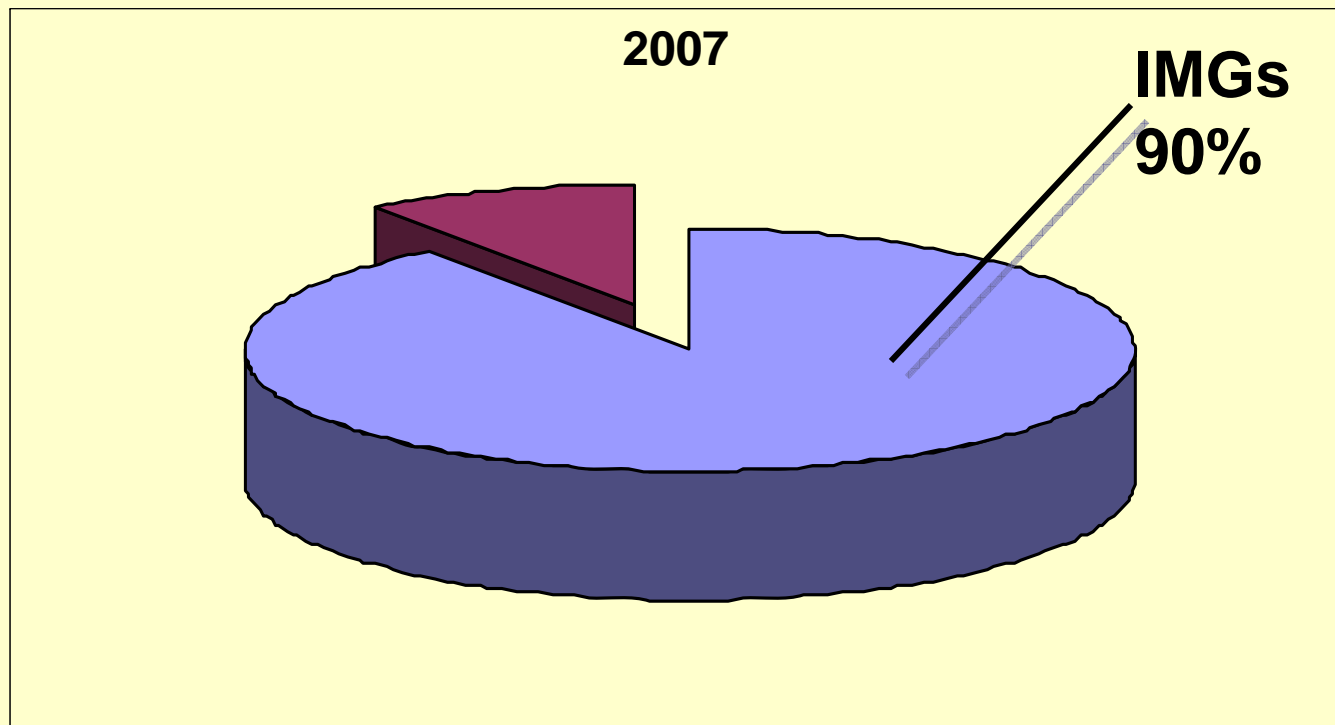
IMG Residents in Family Medicine

Nationally



Indiana far exceeds the national average

Locally



Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

Six competencies:

- Practice-Based Learning
- Medical Knowledge
- Systems-Based Practice
- Professionalism
- Patient Care
- Interpersonal Skills and Communication

Indiana Center for Intercultural Communication

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Established in 1998, the center's focus:

English for Specific Purposes (ESP)

- workplace training
- teacher training
- research on professional and workplace discourse

Director, Ulla Connor

James Gee's concept of Discourse

“Situated identities ... acting-
interacting-feeling-emoting-
valuing-gesturing-posturing-
dressing-thinking-talking in the
'appropriate way'...”

[Gee, 2005, p. 33]

Scollon and Scollon's Discourse Systems

- 1. Ideology** (worldview, values, etc.)
- 2. Socialization** (education, acculturation, etc.)
- 3. Forms of discourse** (communication forms, e.g. rhetorical patterns, non-verbal behavior etc.)
- 4. Face systems** (kinship, concept of self, ingroup-outgroup relations)

(Scollon & Scollon, 2001, pp. 183-184)

Tools for Assessment of Medical Residents

Group-administered

A. Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency

12-page multiple choice test of

- grammar (first 40 questions)
- vocabulary (next 40 questions)
- reading (final 20 questions)

B. Listening Comprehension Test

- Taped dialogs (45 questions)

Tools for Assessment of Medical Residents

Group-administered (continued)

C. 20-minute Writing Sample

prepared prompt on lined paper

give test-taker 20 minutes to complete

no use of dictionary or grammar reference

D. English Mastery Self-Evaluation (2 minutes)

one page form, mastery ranked 1-5 to be circled for different skills

E. Interpersonal Communication Assessment (ICA)

Tools for Assessment of Medical Residents

Individualized

F. Oral Proficiency test (5 minutes)—taped

G. Interview from scripted questions
(15 minutes maximum)—taped

H. Objective Structured Clinical Examination
(OSCE) taped [interaction with standardized (actor) patients administered by IU School of Medicine]

Interpersonal Communication Assessment (ICA)

Contains three fields relating to

- Patient care
- Professionalism
- Interpersonal communication

It provides a

- Series of statements about Indianapolis clinical environment
- Likert-scaled range from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree' and a fifth choice, 'don't know'

Interpersonal Communication Assessment (ICA)

Developed from

1. Literature on cultural misunderstandings in clinical encounters and medical education (e.g. Gropper, 1996, Desai, 2003);
2. Observations of, and action research gained from, training of international medical residents in the past two years by staff at ICIC;
3. Input of educators and behavioral scientists at IU Family Practice, drawing on their years of experience in training both international and domestically-trained residents.

The Interpersonal Communication Assessment Survey

You should answer the following survey questions based on your expectation of the environment you will encounter in your clinical work in Indianapolis. Please read each question, and choose a response based on your first impression. The questions are meant to reflect general statements, not specific incidents, and are not meant to trick you.

Please complete the questionnaire in ten minutes or less. There will be no adverse or punitive actions taken as a result of responses, so please answer openly and honestly.

When directed to begin, please turn the page. Put a check mark in the box below each question that indicates your answer. Check only one answer for each question. Remember, answer each question based NOT on your previous experience, but on your understanding of the medical environment you work in here in Indianapolis.

Sample ICA Questions

NAME _____

1. The doctor is responsible for making the ultimate decision on what treatment the patient receives.
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know
2. Doctors work with nurses and other medical staff to encourage patients and people in their communities to maintain good health.
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know
3. Nurses and assistants follow the doctor's orders without question.
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know
4. Doctors work with patients, their families, and nursing staff to decide on the best care and treatment.
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know
5. The patient has the final decision in his or her own medical care.
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know
6. Doctors speak openly to patients about terminal illnesses and the patient's approaching death.
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

Application to training

On the ICA test, a 28-question instrument currently under development that measures cultural attitudes, Dr. XXXXX evidenced general knowledge of cultural norms in Midwest U.S. clinical practice. However, a single exception was her response to question 10:

“A student or resident should never question the diagnosis or treatment plan that a faculty member has made” to which she answered “Agree”.