

President's Letter

November 4 , 2013

IMG members asked to participate in focus groups

Dear Colleagues:

The NLMA's IMG Advisory Committee has identified two priority areas for the coming year:

- an improved IMG orientation to practice; and,
- a mentorship program to assist IMG members and their families better integrate to the Newfoundland and Labrador health care system and their new home.

We have engaged Corporate Research Associations (CRA), an independent research firm, to assist us in designing and delivering a series of online (*Netfocus*[™]) focus groups in the coming weeks with IMG members and their spouses regarding these priority areas. The focus groups will be 1 to 1.5 hours in duration. All information collected by CRA will be treated as strictly confidential and no one other than CRA will have access to the information collected.

The focus groups will include:

Group 1: Family Physicians (Rural)
Date/Time: Wednesday, November 20, 6 p.m.

Group 2: Specialists (Urban)
Date/Time: Wednesday, November 20, 8 p.m.

Group 3: Specialists (Rural)
Date/Time: Thursday, November 21, 6 p.m.

Group 4: Spouses (Urban and Rural Mix)
Date/Time: TBD

Netfocus[™] involves discussions via a telephone conference call with the addition of simultaneous on-line input (similar to the format of a webinar). Each participant takes part from the convenience of their own home or office and all must have internet access. The technology and approach used for *Netfocus*[™] requires minimal technology literacy skills of participants and the use of this type of technology is time efficient and convenient for participants.

Recruitment for the focus groups will begin in the coming days. We have entered into a limited data sharing agreement with CRA and they will be contacting members by telephone using the most up-to-date information from our database.

Members and their spouses who participate will have their names entered in a draw for an iPad Mini – 64 GB (cash value of \$529).

If you or your spouse is contacted, I encourage you to participate in this important qualitative research. Your active participation will help us tailor our program offerings to better meet the needs of our IMG members and their families.

Regards,



Yordan Karaivanov, MD
President



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President



**Newfoundland &
Labrador Medical
Association**
164 MacDonald Dr.
St. John's, NL
A1A 4B3
(709) 726-7424
or 1-800-563-2003
Fax: (709) 726-7525
or 726-7456
www.nlma.nl.ca
president@nlma.nl.ca