



Dear IHA Member CEO and CMO,

IHA invites you to join in the 2019 Hospital Medical Education (HME) program, which is designed to place first year medical students (after completion of their first year) in a sponsoring Indiana community hospital for a period of four to eight weeks during the 2019 summer. When the program exactly starts and ends is left entirely up to the participating hospital sponsor. Our main role is to merely serve as a conduit for hospitals and students to come together and facilitate the application process.

The goal of the HME program, currently in its 31st year, is to have (primarily Indiana) medical students spend their summer between first and second year working with a hospital medical staff and personnel, learning about the local health care system. This involves having the medical students rotate within the various hospital departments and specialties, as well as any outreach private clinics or practice offices. This program relies heavily on the goodwill of its participating hospital sponsors, and your hospital's participation provides an important learning opportunity for many medical students throughout the state as it pertains to community medicine in hospitals around the state. See comments below made by recent participants.

"In the HME program, you get to spend time shadowing physicians of varying specialties, as well as other medical professionals, in a hospital setting. It was a great chance to step back from classes and actually see some of the things you've been learning in action. After finishing, I have a better understanding of how all the members of an interprofessional team work together to care for hospital patients."

"The HME Program was a wonderful way to spend my summer. During the six week-long program, I was able to shadow and work with physicians from fields ranging from interventional radiology to urology. I was able to assist during surgeries, interview patients, and observe how physicians interact with patients and other healthcare team professionals."

"The HME program was great for me because it reminded me why I wanted to go to med school in the first place, which is something that is easy to lose sight of after first year."

"The HME program was an outstanding opportunity, and I had a great experience. Over the summer, I wanted to explore different specialties and get some clinical experience to remind me why we spend so much time studying. I had a blast every day! The doctors I shadowed were excellent. All the staff members were very welcoming and engaged with students. I wholeheartedly recommend HME if you are interested in exploring specialties, gaining some experience, and want to avoid research."

"Being in the HME program gave me a broader aspect of medicine as a whole and a better idea of what I want to do. Not only this but a lot of what we learned in the first year I was able to relearn and put into clinical context. With this I feel I am more prepared not only for Step 1, but clinical rotations. It was a great break from hitting the books and getting the patient experience I enjoy."

The medical students who participant in the program find it best to return to their hometowns for the summer and commute to the nearest HME hospital sponsor. For others, participating in a remote location may be desirable but will require housing, which HME participating hospitals do not provide. During the 2018 summer, there were 55 medical students participating in 21 hospitals throughout the state. In many cases, participating hospitals sponsored more than one medical student, with some sponsoring as many as eight medical students. The HME program has traditionally been endorsed by IHA as an opportunity to have medical students involved in its member hospitals. This program operates independently from Indiana University and Marian University medical schools but elicits the assistance of the medical schools in coordinating the application process.

We certainly hope that your hospital will sponsor medical students during the summer 2019. To participate, please complete the application and return it using the contact information provided by Dec. 5. This will ensure prompt distribution of application information to the medical students by the first week in December. There is **no** application fee to participate in the HME program, just your willingness to have a student or students for the 2019 summer and provide a nominal stipend for the student. Each hospital sponsor can determine the length of the program, the education objectives, and the monetary stipend amounts to support the medical student(s) (e.g., stipend, room and board, meal benefits, etc.).

For summer 2019, participating medical students from the Indiana University School of Medicine are being requested to write an abstract describing an instructive clinical case or scenario they observe during the summer, and to provide the completed abstract to their Lead Academic Advisor in order document formally their participation in the HME program. While the sponsoring medical staff are not obligated to assist in the preparation of this abstract, we wish to notify participating hospitals that IUSM students may request permission, advice or insight for this assignment.

Please keep in mind that in addition to the experience the students gain, the students are also relying on a reasonable income to sustain themselves over the summer while participating in the program. The program recommends a minimum stipend of \$400/week to cover the student's costs as it relates to rent, transportation, and personal expenses. This is consistent with the medical student's monthly budgets during the academic year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jose Espada at 317-274-1967 or jespada@iu.edu.

Thank you,



Brian Tabor
President
317-423-7790
btabor@IHAconnect.org