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IBMS: Connecting patients with top-quality healthcare providers worldwide

International Board of Medicine and Surgery

NEWSLETTER



In This Issue:

Featured Articles

Please refer to the IBMS website, Industry Trends, <http://ibms.us/trends.php> for the most up to date information in the medical tourism arena.

USA: New website cuts out medical tourism agents

MediBid.com - A new US based website "connecting" Drs & hospitals all over world to their patients. Participating physicians can expand their practice by offering medical services to cash paying patients without what the company calls interference from the medical middlemen who drive costs skyward without improving care. MediBid allows doctors to set their own prices based on the patients' needs and gives patients a choice. Physicians tailor bids on a case-by-case basis, which empowers them to find new patients and enhance their practice. MediBid does not regulate prices.

GLOBAL: Best ten hospitals for medical tourism

Dear **Listees and Registered Members** of the **International Board of Medicine and Surgery**,

The Medical Tourism Congress in Beverly Hills, CA, during October, 2009, was a success with over 1500 attendees from over 60 countries.

IBMS had an exhibit booth where many expressed an interest in having a professional presence of healthcare providers (rather than merely industry players) in the medical tourism arena.

Dr. Kalin spoke with Dr. Huffman, a registered IBMS member, on issues of aftercare.

Many have expressed an interest in developing a professional congress perhaps adjacent to the annual Medical Tourism Association Congress, as well continuing medical education in the area of medical tourism, ie medical communication, newest medical techniques, pre and post care, etc.

Registered members have



1. Fortis Hospital, Bangalore, India
2. Gleneagles Hospital, Singapore
3. Prince Court Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
4. Shouldice Hospital, Toronto, Canada
5. Schoen-Kliniken, Munich, Germany
6. Bumrungrad International, Bangkok, Thailand
7. Bangkok Hospital Medical Center, Bangkok, Thailand
8. Wooridul Spine Hospital, Seoul, Korea
9. Clemenceau Medical Center, Beirut, Lebanon
10. Christus Muguerza Super Specialty Hospital, Monterrey, Mexico

Sincerely,



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demonstrated an active national license and current membership in their specialty association.

BAHAMAS: Bahamas seeks to develop medical tourism



The Ministry of Tourism is seeking to develop an investment incentives policy for the healthcare industry, similar

to that presently enjoyed by the hotel industry. The authorities feel that to establish the Bahamas as a medical tourism destination, it is not sufficient just to open and let the world know. American medical institutions are being targeted by the Grand Bahamas Port Authority (GBPA) for its proposed \$100 million hospital for Freeport. The benefits to be derived might include creation of specialized health services such as kidney transplants, cardiac surgery, orthopedic surgery, pediatric surgery and cancer therapy.

MEDICAL TOURISM / KOREA

Seoul City intends to boost tourism as one of its top priority tasks for 2010, and the metropolitan government is ambitiously seeking to attract 10 million foreign tourists this year. It is seeking to boost the medical tourism industry, and hopes to increase the number of medical tourists to 52,000 from 37,000 recorded in 2009, out of a total of 50,000 for all South Korea. For 2010, it seeks to attract 1.8 million Chinese tourists. Last year, 1.34 million Chinese people visited Seoul. In 2010, Korea is expecting to attract around 60,000 medical tourists and the target is to attract 140,000 in 2015.

Korea's cosmetic surgery clinics are packed with foreign patients. In the past, the patients were largely from China, Hong Kong and Singapore, but recently they have diversified and now they come from Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, the UK and the USA. Medical tourism has increased rapidly

P.....Professional

O.....Online

W.....Web

R.....Registry



**IBMS: offering
healthcare providers worldwide
visibility and credibility**

as the quality of medical treatment in the country improved and the Korean won weakened against other currencies in early 2009. Foreign patients in Korea reportedly spend twice as much money as regular Japanese tourists.

MEDICAL TOURISM / CUBA

Cuba is aware of the value of tourism to its economy and what a change in US tourism policy would mean. This nation has rapidly developed hotels and resorts over the past two decades to cater to primarily Canadian and European travellers, 2.4 million tourists in 2009. Cuba has been offering health tourism since 1989, for both medical treatment and health spas. All health tourism goes via Cubanacan Tourism and Health, a state owned company that uses a network of hospitals, private medical and dental clinics, opticians, drugstores and spas. It markets health tourism through travel agencies and private clinics. It runs the international clinics scattered all across the country, as well as medical outposts in hotels and resorts.

"I wanted to thank you (Dr. Kalin) for participating in our interview on medical tourism. Your perspectives and thoughts were helpful in appreciating the importance of provider credentialing from your organization. Some organizations we've spoken to seemed obsessed about organizational accreditation (eg JCI), but your thoughts brought the importance of the physician's certification as a trusted source for care."

Howard R. Underwood, MD/MBA, FSA, MAAA, FCA

Deloitte Consulting LLP



IBMS membership benefits include:

- Official certificate of IBMS membership
- Member listing on IBMS website with link to an existing professional website or page
- Coordination of pre and post medical evaluation and/or treatment
- IBMS-affiliated healthcare travel associates to coordinate patient arrangements
- Relationship with a U.S. multi-specialty physician organization facilitating U.S. board certification

* A professional courtesy listing for non-members on this site includes name, country, specialty, and email address

All registered physician/surgeon/dentist members, within the next 30 days please update your membership data by completing the online membership (<http://ibms.us/membership.php>). Make sure to upload a copy of your medical license and current specialty certificate in order *to preserve your membership and enhance credibility* of the **International Board of Medicine and Surgery**.

For the next 30 days you will also have the option to advertise/announce yourself (no additional charge) on the 3 affiliated independent commercial internet sites, www.medivacation.com , www.emedivacation.com , and www.healthtravelservices.com , which cater to medical travel / tourism companies and the general public. Please email advertising /announcing information subsequent to updating online registration.

As a **professional online website registry**, the **International Board of Medicine and Surgery** also wishes to extend an opportunity for a complimentary professional courtesy (free) listing of physicians, surgeons, dentists **by your recommendation** on our website www.ibms.us .

Please consider selecting **at least 20 distinguished healthcare providers**, and a representative of the **International Board of Medicine and Surgery** will arrange to meet with these physicians, surgeons, and/or dentists, deliver certificates of membership, explain benefits of membership, review facilities, and discuss needs of members (5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED).

For more information, please review the article <http://www.medicaltourismmag.com/issue-detail.php?item=203&issue=9> .

Please feel free to contact Dr. Kalin directly at 813.966.1431.

Enabling the public to make informed decisions

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