

Important Information for Foreign National Physicians Who Will be Traveling from the United States to the ACP Annual Meeting in Toronto, April 2010

Before making any travel arrangements, be sure to review all of the immigration requirements for entry into Canada and return to the United States. There may be specific requirements that apply to you as a non-U.S. or Canadian citizen. Therefore, we encourage you to be well informed of the facts and to take the necessary steps to ensure smooth travel to and from the ACP meeting.

The information offered below provides an overview of general immigration requirements and is not meant to serve as legal advice. No two cases are exactly alike and all non-U.S. / Canadian citizens are encouraged to contact their sponsor and/or employer prior to departure for more specific travel instructions and updated information. The “Travel” portal on the ECFMG website @ <http://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/travel.html> is an excellent resource for J-1 physicians. All foreign nationals are reminded that they are responsible to comply with U.S. and Canadian immigration regulations.

General Information on Departure from the United States

Non-immigrants holding visas are generally asked to surrender their current I-94 arrival departure card when exiting the United States as part of US-VISIT, a comprehensive registration tracking system of the U.S. Government. However, if you are entering Canada for less than 30 days, you may be eligible to return to the United States using “Automatic Visa Revalidation.” In this case, you would not be required to surrender your I-94 card upon departure. For specific information and eligibility requirements for Automatic Visa Revalidation, see http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/. The “Travel” portal on the ECFMG website also provides information on Automatic Visa Revalidation @ <http://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/travel.html#reval>

If you were designated as an NSEERS "Special Registrant" upon entry to the United States, you are also reminded to adhere to the established departure procedures. Additional information on Special Registration is available @ <http://www.ice.gov/pi/specialregistration/index.htm>

Entry into Canada to Attend the ACP Meeting

Entry into Canada is governed by Canadian law. While citizens of some countries may be admitted as visitors to Canada with a valid passport, many foreign nationals must also obtain a visa to be granted entry. The official Canadian government website “Citizenship and Immigration Canada” provides detailed information on visa eligibility and specific application instructions and timelines. See <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp> for additional detail.

Canadian customs officials verify required immigration documents at all ports-of entry. Airlines confirm passport and visa requirements for all passengers prior to boarding. It may also be helpful to keep your registration for the ACP meeting, the address of hotel/lodging and your round trip travel ticket readily available for port-of entry inspection by Canadian Customs.

Re-entry to the United States from Canada Following Attendance at the ACP Meeting

The minimum requirements to reenter the United States after a brief trip to Canada generally include:

- Passport, valid for at least six months beyond the re-entry date
- Valid Visa* (J-1, H-1 B, others) and the official government processed documentation confirming one's visa status. (*If the visa stamp in your passport has expired, you may be eligible for Automatic Revalidation). See http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/

- **J-1 and J-2 visa** holders must possess a duplicate Form DS-2019 signed by the ECFMG officer confirming authorization to travel; see Box 3 on Form DS-2019 "Travel Validation by Responsible Officer".
 - ECFMG travel authorization is valid for multiple entries up to one year from the date of the signature
 - To request a duplicate Form DS-2019 for travel, go to ECFMG's website at <http://www.ecfm.org/evsp/ds2019dup.pdf>
 - Information on J-1 travel is available on the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) website @ http://www.ice.gov/sevis/factsheet/100104ent_exchng_fs.htm

- **H-1 B visa** holders are advised to have the following documents available for the reentry inspection:
 - The "Personal Records" portion of the original H-1B approval notice from the employer
 - A current letter of employment from the host institution/department on department letterhead verifying employment
 - Most recent pay stubs to verify employment
 - Copy of the I-797 H-1B Approval Notice
 - Copy of the approved Labor Condition Application and the Form I-129/Application for H-1B status

- All **other visa holders** are encouraged to consult with their employers/sponsors prior to departure to verify documentation requirements

The U.S. Government reserves the right to impose additional requirements or to deny entry to any individual.

Important Reminder : Individuals who enter in the United States in B-1 or B-2 Tourist/Visitor status have no employment authorization and may not work or be paid during their stay. If, in addition to a valid work or training visa (J-1, J-2, F-1, H-1B, O-1), you also have a valid B-1/B-2 Tourist/Visitor visa

in your passport, be sure that you DO NOT reenter the United States in B status. The I-94 Arrival Record that is issued for you at the U.S. Port of Entry must reflect your approved status to work or train (J-1, J-2, F-1, H-1B, and O-1 etc.). Entering in B-1 or B-2 status would restrict you to the unpaid activities of a visitor.

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