

World Health Organization, have ABIM certification, hold 2 state licences and LMCC certification and practise in New Brunswick. Nevertheless, 3 years after embarking on a journey for the elusive Holy Grail of FRCPC certification, I'm being prevented from writing the Canadian exams. It seems that when every criterion has been met, a new form must be filled out or a new exam must be written. The latest roadblock is the requisition of my entire medical school transcripts in order to reinvent the wheel!

Therefore I have no sympathy for the governing bodies and medical societies that cry about physician shortages. This mess developed because of our own turf protection and short-sighted planning. The result is convoluted departments that justify their existence, and funding, by creating seemingly endless red tape.

I'm luckier than most, in that I can continue to work while wading through this quagmire of paperwork. But why are we surprised to learn that there has been a brain drain south when at home we have actively set out to exclude people from working here?

Red tape is strangling foreign-trained physicians

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I would like to add my voice to that of Alex Porzecanski, whose letter lamented the lack of support for foreign-trained physicians.¹ Not only are there considerable stumbling blocks for these students, but there is considerable disincentive for them to return to Canada after their residency.

After completing my degree in a foreign medical school, I pursued a residency in Canada. I was met with a disheartening wall of bureaucracy and opted for a position in the US. At the end of my training and after completing the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) exams, I inquired about practice in Canada. Even as a Canadian with American qualifications, I found that entry into the system was daunting.

At this point I am a graduate of a medical school recognized by the