

The HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH

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Anesthesiologists in Rwanda are truly one-in-a-million.

There are currently 11 anesthesiologists in Rwanda to support a population of 11 million citizens. Most anesthetics are delivered by anesthesia technicians possessing little more education than high school equivalency. These personnel issues are compounded by equipment shortages and contribute to high perioperative mortality and morbidity rates.



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IN RWANDA Program

The Rwandan government has developed a bold plan to address these patient safety issues by increasing the capacity of residency training programs, growing the numbers of practicing physicians and creating a high-quality, sustainable health care system. This Human Resources for Health in Rwanda (HRH) program is a seven-year medical education initiative encompassing anesthesia, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, internal medicine and family practice. Concurrent programs will address the shortage of nurses and deficiencies in equipment and supplies. Funded by a large grant from the U.S. government, the Rwandan Ministry of Health has contracted with nine U.S. medical schools to provide the faculty to train Rwandan residents and mentor Rwandan faculty to become educators. The Clinton Health Access Initiative is providing organizational support to this effort. U.S. candidates will be vetted through, and receive temporary appointments at, the U.S. schools in order to participate. In August 2012, the U.S. schools will begin sending more than 50 physicians in the above specialties for long-term (one-year) assignments. We expect to send four anesthesiologists per year to Rwanda. At a later date, short-term (three-to six-month) assignments for subspecialists will also be available. After seven years, U.S. faculty will be phased out, as Rwandan medical faculty assumes full responsibility for the residency training programs.

Rwanda is a very safe place to live and work. The U.S. Department of State has no travel restrictions in place, and according to the anti-corruption watchdog Transparency International, the government of Rwanda is among the least corrupt in all of Africa.

For more information about participation in the HRH program, please contact us at anesthesia@rwandahrh.com.



*All photos courtesy of
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Relatives of patients at the campus of the Health Center of the University of Kigali.