



LATINO DIABETES INITIATIVE VISITOR PROGRAM

PURPOSE

In response to the growing impact of diabetes among Latinos the Joslin Diabetes Center launched its Latino Diabetes Initiative in July 2002, which aims at improving the lives of Latinos with diabetes and at risk for the disease through comprehensive treatment. Not only does the Initiative provide patient care and education through a bilingual/bicultural multi-disciplinary approach, but it also integrates community outreach and clinical research to form an innovative, one-of-a-kind program. In response to the need for better awareness and care, we have developed a professional education program to train and tutor visiting physicians, through which we have hosted several health care professionals and students from Spain and various Latin American countries.

As a leading center for the clinical care and investigational study of diabetes, the Joslin Clinic promotes the education of physicians and other health care providers as part of its mission for the advancement of diabetes awareness among and the reduction in health disparities within the Latino population. The program allows visitors to observe our clinicians in action and is designed for people wishing to gain further clinical care experience. Our intention is to build upon the prior knowledge of the participants and to promote culturally oriented patient care and education.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Participants in the visitor program will spend approximately 40% of their time observing activities in clinical patient care, 20% in professional medical conferences and patient education classes and 40% assisting with ongoing research projects. Some specific program activities have been listed below as an example of what may be available to participants.

- Attend consultations in the Joslin Diabetes Center and affiliated hospitals;
- Participate in the routine activities of ongoing Latino Initiative research studies;
- Attend conferences and discussions at the Joslin Diabetes Center on various topics related to endocrinology and diabetes;
- Attend conferences at Harvard Medical School affiliated hospitals, including Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Children's Hospital;
- Observe English- and Spanish-language patient education classes at the Joslin Clinic;
- Participate, when available, in professional training sessions for Joslin staff;
- Perform occasional administrative tasks and library research; and
- Assist with projects, which will be assigned according to interest and availability.

PROGRAM LOCATION

The majority of program activities are held at Joslin Diabetes Center at One Joslin Place in Boston, Massachusetts. On occasion program participants may observe physician consultations or research study activities with Joslin staff members at other institutions.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Applicants must meet or exceed the following requirements:

- Have 80% fluency in English (speaking and listening skills are indispensable)
- Be a doctor, medical resident or fellow – preference will be given to those who graduated from medical school at least two years prior
- Be able to commit to a two- to three-month observation period at Joslin
- Have a demonstrated history of taking initiative on projects

Applicants who meet the above-mentioned criteria must provide the following documents:

- A completed application
- Curriculum Vitae
- Copy of medical license
- A letter of reference from a direct Supervisor of your medical program (in English or Spanish)
- A one-page essay, explaining how you imagine that your experience here will help you develop in your future medical work

**Applications are accepted throughout the year,
but will be reviewed for decision by the following deadlines:**

For observation periods starting between January and June – **October 1**

For observation periods starting between July and December – **May 1**

COST

The participation fee for this program is \$1,000.00 per month. Joslin can accommodate up to two participants in the visitor program at a time, up to 12 total per year.

Participants are responsible for finding and securing living arrangements for their time in the visitor program. Joslin does not provide living space for participants nor can it endorse or promote real estate options or services.

Requests for applications or information can be made to
Angelee Russ via e-mail at angelee.russ@joslin.harvard.edu