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W. Douglas Weaver
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conducted and at the same time enhance the academic careers of the investigators involved.

A third way the ACC could support IMGs and at the same time achieve its mission to improve global cardiovascular health is by conducting some of its educational programs and workshops in developing countries and getting IMGs in these countries intimately involved in these programs.

The interest of the ACC leadership in IMGs is an important positive step forward. The IMGs remaining in the U.S. and those returning to their home countries possess tremendous clinical and research potentials that should be used effectively to improve the global cardiovascular health and fulfill the mission of the ACC.

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2. Dakik HA, Kaidbey H, Sabra R. Research productivity of the medical faculty at the American University of Beirut. *Postgrad Med J* 2006;82:462–4.

Reply

I thank Dr. Dakik for taking the time to respond to my commentary on international medical graduates (1). His thoughtful response reinforces the need to encourage opportunities for trainees who do return to their home countries to help address the cardiovascular health care of their country folk.

I will be sure to forward Dr. Dakik's thoughts to our new International Council for their consideration as they begin to chart

a course and set of activities. The Council's first meeting was at our Annual Scientific Sessions in Orlando, Florida, this past March. It is primarily composed of members of the American College of Cardiology from outside of the U.S., many of whom will likely have had the same experiences and impressions as Dr. Dakik. The Council is one outcome of several years of planning to better meet the needs of cardiovascular medicine in other countries of the world.

Another result of the international strategy is the provision for American College of Cardiology country chapters in collaboration with existing national chapters—an approach that is ideally suited to support Dr. Dakik's ideas. Leading College members in these country chapters can encourage cardiologists to pursue their scholarship, advise them on preparing their papers, and direct their submission to the most promising journals. This strengthened network provides the means through which pharmaceutical interests can identify and support researchers and clinical trial needs. And, one can be reassured that one key goal of the International Council and country chapters will be to enhance educational programs and workshops in country.

I welcome readers' continued support of the College and regular visits to our online source of international news and perspectives at the ACC International Center: www.acc.org/about/international/international.htm.

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