



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN
College of Medicine



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A NEW DOCTOR PRACTISES IN HEARTLAND HEALTH REGION

Patients all across Saskatchewan continue to have better access to physician care. A new family doctor is now practising in Eston, thanks to the Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment (SIPPA) program.

Dr. Tokunbo Dabiri joins many other International Medical Graduate (IMG) colleagues already practising in Saskatchewan. SIPPA is a unique Saskatchewan program that assesses IMGs on their education and clinical ability before allowing them to practise medicine. Since the program began in 2011, close to 180 new family physicians have completed the assessment and are currently practising in the province.

"We welcome these new doctors and their families to our growing province," Rural and Remote Health Minister Greg Ottenbreit said. "SIPPA is one of many ways we're ensuring Saskatchewan residents get better access to physician care. In total, there are over 400 more doctors practising in the province than there were eight years ago."

"The SIPPA program has provided a great opportunity for international medical graduates to prepare for practice in rural Saskatchewan," Heartland Health Region CEO Greg Cummings said. "We join the community in welcoming Dr. Dabiri to the Heartland Health Region and to the primary care team in Eston."

In addition, a total of 11 new IMGs from the May intake are now completing their clinical field assessments. If successful, these family physicians will begin practising across the province this summer.

"The SIPPA program is really about addressing the needs of Saskatchewan patients, and our IMG graduates are building their family medicine practices in rural communities across the province," SIPPA Medical Director for the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan Dr. Jon Witt said. "The College of Medicine is pleased to continue our partnership with these communities, saskdocs, and the provincial government to create opportunities for IMGs to practise medicine in Saskatchewan."

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“Collectively, we are making great strides at retaining our own, U of S trained medical graduates whom I think are increasingly realizing the benefits of practising medicine as teams with doctors like the 15 that just graduated from SIPPA,” saskdocs’ CEO Dr. Dennis Kendel said. “This collaborative approach to delivering care to the people of Saskatchewan is strengthened with the arrival of these new doctors in many communities throughout Saskatchewan.”

In addition to attracting IMGs, Saskatchewan is making progress keeping more locally trained family medicine graduates in the province. The retention rate of family medicine graduates trained at the University of Saskatchewan has jumped by 17 per cent over the past two years – from 58 per cent to 75 per cent.

Family physicians interested in working in Saskatchewan are encouraged to contact saskdocs directly at info@saskdocs.ca or call toll-free (in North America) 1-888-415-3627 or 306-933-5000.

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