

J-1 Physician Visa Waiver Program Application Attestation

Candidates Information:

Full Name: Anna Axentiev

Place of Birth: Karaganda, Kazakhstan

Country of Citizenship: Canada

DOS Case Number: 2033920

Residency Discipline: General Surgery

Residency Timeframe: 7/1/2020 to 6/30/2025

Location of Residency: Ascension Saint Agnus Hospital, Maryland

Fellowship/Specialty: Hepatobiliary and pancreatic
(HBP)/Complex GI Surgery Fellowship

Fellowship Timeframe: 7/1/2025 to 6/30/2026

Location of Fellowship: AdventHealth Medical Group, Florida

Employers Information:

Employer's Full Name: LV Surgery Associates PLLC

Employer's Address: 8930 W. Sunset Road, Ste. 300, Las Vegas, NV89148

Employer's Point of Contact Name: Charon Todd

Employer's Email Address: Charon@lvsurgical.com

Employer's Phone Number: 702-232-4736

Official Legal Representative Information:

Law Firm Name: Clark Hill, PLC

Law Firm Address: 500 Montgomery Street, 13th Floor, San Francisco, CA 95411

Point of Contact Name: Alison P. Hitz

Point of Contact Email Address: ahitz@clarkhill.com

Point of Contact Phone Number: (415) 984-8563

Practice Site Information:

Practice Site #1: LV Surgery Associates PLLC

Practice Site #1 Address: 7220 S. Cimarron Road, Ste. 100, Las Vegas, NV 89113

Number of Hours Candidate will practice at site per week: Number of hours at site: 5

Select all that apply:

☒ In a HPSA HPSA # 1324377592 ☐ In a MUA/MUP MUA # ☐ Flex Spot
☐ Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) ☐ Tribal Health Center
☐ Rural Health Clinic (RHC) ☐ Primary Care Clinic for a Rural Health Hospital

***For specialists, hospitalists and/or flex locations please fill out the below section of the form that pertains to you.**

Specialist Information for site #1:

Current specialist to patient ratio at facility: Current Ratio.

Optimum specialist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Current number of specialist vacancies: Current Vacancies.

Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Hospitalist Information for site #1: N/A

Current hospitalist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Optimum hospitalist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Current number of hospitalist vacancies: Current Vacancies.

Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Flex Spot Information for site #1: N/A

Percentage of population served at or below 200% federal poverty level: % under 200% FPL

Wait times for serving this population: Wait times.

Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Current physician to patient ratio at facility: Current Ratio.

Optimum physician to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Please list any barriers to serve this population: Click or tap here to enter text.

Additional Practice Sites:

Practice Site Information:

Practice Site #2: LV Surgery Associates PLLC

Practice Site #2 Address: 3150 N. Tenaya Dr., Ste. 480, Las Vegas, NV 89128

Number of Hours Candidate will practice at site per week: Number of hours at site: 5

Select all that apply:

☒ In a HPSA HPSA #1321146138 ☐ In a MUA/MUP ☐ Flex Spot
☐ Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) ☐ Tribal Health Center
☐ Rural Health Clinic (RHC) ☐ Primary Care Clinic for a Rural Health Hospital

***For specialists, hospitalists and/or flex locations please fill out the below section of the form that pertains to you.**

Specialist Information for site #2:

Current specialist to patient ratio at facility: Current Ratio.

Optimum specialist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Current number of specialist vacancies: Current Vacancies.

Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Hospitalist Information for site #2: N/A

Current hospitalist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Optimum hospitalist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Current number of hospitalist vacancies: Current Vacancies.

Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Flex Spot Information for site #2: N/A

Percentage of population served at or below 200% federal poverty level: % under 200% FPL

Wait times for serving this population: Wait times.

Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Current physician to patient ratio at facility: Current Ratio.

Optimum physician to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Please list any barriers to serve this population: Click or tap here to enter text.

If there are more than 2 practice sites, please add all additional practice locations with the above information, at the end of this form.

Employer and Candidate, seek a letter of support from the Physician Visa Waiver Program and requests the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to forward the J-1 Visa Waiver application to the U.S. Department of State as a State Health Agency request, per DS-3035. Employer and Candidate have agreed to comply with the duties set forth in Chapter 439A of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) and to cooperate with the Physician Visa Waiver Program.

In signing below, an authorized representative of the Employer and the Candidate declares under penalty of perjury that all statements submitted with this application are true and accurate and this application complies with the requirements of NRS 439A.175 and NAC 439.730 including as follows:

All practices sites where the Candidate will practice:

X Are located in a federally designated Primary Care HPSA, MUA/P or a site approved by the state as a geographic exception or a flex slot (Public Law 108-441) to address the underserved;

X Accept Medicare, Medicaid assignment and Nevada Checkup;

- X Offer a sliding discount fee schedule and a minimum fee based on family size & income; and
- X Has a policy stating all patients will receive treatment, regardless of their ability to pay which is either posted at the site or provided to the patients.

The contract between the Employer and the Candidate provides the following:

- X Candidate agrees to provide services during 3 -year waiver obligation.
- X Candidate will provide services 40 hours per week minimum plus on-call time.
- X The salary meets or exceeds the prevailing wage for that area and for physicians of that specialty as reported by the Foreign Labor Certification Center, Department of Labor, (<http://www.flcdatacenter.com>):
- X The amount of time off for vacation, sick leave and for Continuing Medical Education is included. The employer shall maintain records to show the amount of time-off requested and the amount of time taken.
- X Does not contain a “non-compete” clause that would prohibit the J-1 Visa Waiver physician from opening a new clinic or working in a clinic in that shortage area upon completing the three-year commitment.
- X Conditions for termination of the contract, for both the physician and employer, are included. A “no-cause” termination is not allowed.
- X Any new contracts or amendments during the 3-year obligation will be sent to the PCO for review and approval before signature.
- X Agreement to begin employment at the stated practice site within 90 days of receiving a waiver from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). During the 90 days, the physician must obtain the required licenses from the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the State Board of Pharmacy, and any other licenses as may be required for the physician to practice medicine in Nevada; and
- X A statement that the physician agrees to meet the requirements set forth in section 214(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Please note in accordance with NRS Chapter 239, all public records, the contents not otherwise declared by law to be confidential, shall be open for inspection or to obtain copies.

PHYSICIAN Eligibility Requirements

A. **Eligibility:** To be eligible for a letter of support by the Nevada Primary Care Office (PCO) within the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) a physician **must**:

1. Complete a residency or fellowship training program and intend to practice in Nevada for a minimum of three consecutive years.
2. Submit all relevant application components
3. Review and understand all terms included in the employment contract, including expectations for working hours, hospital rounds, and on-call requirements. The PCO has limited authority under NRS 439A.180 to ensure program requirements are met and cannot mediate labor disputes; therefore, the physician must review all contracts carefully before signing. Labor disputes or medical safety issues will be referred to the federal Department of Labor or to the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
4. Agree to notify the PCO of the start date of employment using the New Arrival Form.
5. Agree to review the Rights and Responsibilities presentation upon start of employment (presentation located online at [Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Information, Instructions & Forms](#)).
6. Agree to report additional employment. Any additional or outside employment in which the J-1 Visa Waiver physician engages must be stipulated in the original contract or added to a new contract which must then be resigned by all parties and resubmitted to the Primary Care Office (PCO) for recommendation and for USCIS approval, if applicable.
7. Agree to limit absence from the practice site to a maximum of 180 consecutive days. If the physician is absent from medical practice more than 180 consecutive days, the physician must submit an updated New Arrival Form to the DPBH, PCO.
8. Agree to treat all clients regardless of ability to pay, accept Medicaid and Medicare patients on assignment, and use a sliding fee scale for low-income, uninsured individuals. The practice site must provide notice to the public, as evidenced by a sign in the waiting area regarding this policy.
9. Agree to obtain, within sixty days of start date, an individual National Provider Identifier (NPI) from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which will be used on all health care claims.
10. Agree to report practices within the practice site setting that do not meet the standards of care as established by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners. <http://www.medboard.nv.gov/>. NRS 41A.009 "Medical malpractice" defined. "Medical malpractice" means the failure of a physician, hospital or employee of a hospital, in rendering services, to use the reasonable care, skill or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances.
11. Report semi-annually (April and October), via the Compliance form on the status of the physician services for

EMPLOYER Eligibility Requirements

- A. **Eligibility:** To be eligible to employ a J-1 Visa Waiver physician, a medical practice must comply with these requirements:
1. Located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), a federally designated Medically Underserved Area or Population (MUA/P), or a “flex slot” documenting service to underserved populations, as verified by the state. Determine if locations are designated at the following link: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area>
 2. The site must have been operating at least six months before requesting a physician under the J-1 visa waiver program.
 3. Submit all relevant application components
 4. Agree to review the Rights and Responsibilities presentation upon the start of employment (presentation located online at [Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Instruction, Information & Forms](#))
 5. Report additional employment of the physician. Any additional or outside employment in which the J1 Visa Waiver physician engages must be stipulated in the original contract or added to a new contract which must then be resigned by all parties and resubmitted to the Primary Care Office (PCO) for recommendation for USCIS approval, if applicable.
 6. The practice site must accept all patients regardless of ability to pay, accept Medicaid and Medicare on assignment, and use a sliding-fee scale based on federal poverty guidelines to discount services to lowincome uninsured persons. The medical practice must provide notice to the public that such a policy is in effect and apply these access standards to the entire medical practice, not simply to those patients treated by the J-1 Visa Waiver physician. These requirements should be in place for at least three months immediately preceding the request for waiver.
 7. Agree that the physician will use an individual National Provider Identifier (NPI) from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on all Medicaid health care claims.
 8. Report semi-annually (April and October), via the Compliance form on the status of the physician services for the previous six months and where those services were provided.
 9. Agree to report practices within the practice site setting that do not meet the standards of care as established by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners. <http://www.medboard.nv.gov/>. NRS 41A.009 “Medical malpractice” defined. “Medical malpractice” means the failure of a physician, hospital or employee of a hospital, in rendering services, to use the reasonable care, skill or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances
 10. Agree to immediately report all changes to the work schedule, which will be in effect longer than three

weeks, to the PCO on the appropriate change of status form [Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Instruction, Information & Forms \(nv.gov\)](#). These changes include, but are not limited to, a temporary assignment to another practice site, a decrease in hours at the practice site, an increase of call-time requirement, an increase in hospital-rounds time, and an increase in emergency room call. The most recent form on file will be used by the DPBH to assess whether the physician and employer are compliant with these policies and state law.

11. Notify the PCO, in writing, at least thirty days prior to a transfer from the approved facility to another facility within the medical practice. For a transfer outside the medical practice, the PCO must be notified, in writing, at the earliest opportunity. The PCO reserves the right to approve or disapprove all transfers.
12. Notify the PCO, in writing, within thirty days of disciplinary action and/or termination. In the event of any emergency termination due to extreme circumstances affecting the health or safety of clients or other individuals, the PCO must be notified no later than twenty-four hours after the emergency termination.
13. Understand that the PCO does not have the authority to mediate between employer and employees participating in the J-1 Visa Waiver program, or to enforce labor standards. Further, the PCO assumes no responsibility for negotiations or content of employment contracts or for termination of the contracts. If the PCO becomes aware of such issues, it will recommend seeking advice from an attorney or contacting the appropriate agency (i.e., Medicaid Fraud and Abuse, Department of Labor, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Medical Board of Examiners). The PCO will, however, investigate allegations of wrongdoing and issue a written determination of findings.

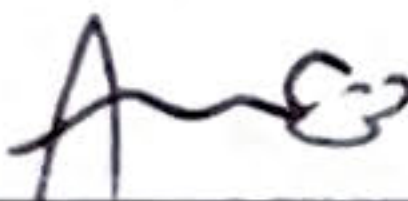
B. Consequences of Default:

An employer is in default if, at any time, he or she does not meet the conditions listed in section A. The DPBH, PCO will monitor the physician and the medical practice. An employer found in violation of Nevada Revised Statutes 439A.130 to 439A.185 or Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 439A.700 to 439A.755 will incur the penalties specified under NAC 439A.750.

By signing below, I hereby attest that the above requirements have been met and I hereby agree to abide by all the program policies and rules as described in NRS and NAC and as further required under the Rights and Responsibilities located at the Divisions website at: <http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/Conrad30/Conrad30-Home/>.

Candidate/Physician:

I Anna Axentiev, MD, declare under penalty of perjury, that I have read, understand and agree to the foregoing terms of the Nevada Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program Application Attestation. I further understand that failure to comply with the requirements listed in Section A may result in sanctions as described in section B above.

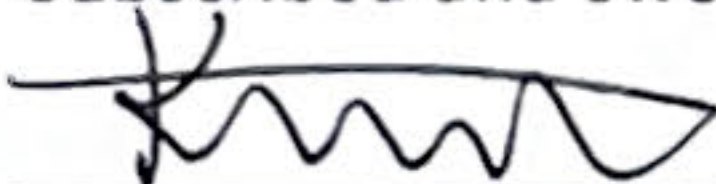
<u>Anna Axentiev, MD</u>	<u>Surgeon</u>
Candidate Name (first/last)	Title
<u></u>	<u>8/14/2026</u>
Candidate Signature	Date

NOTARY PUBLIC

State of: Florida

County of: Hillsborough

Subscribed and sworn before me on this 14 day of 8, 2026



Notary Signature

My Commission Expires: 5/6/28

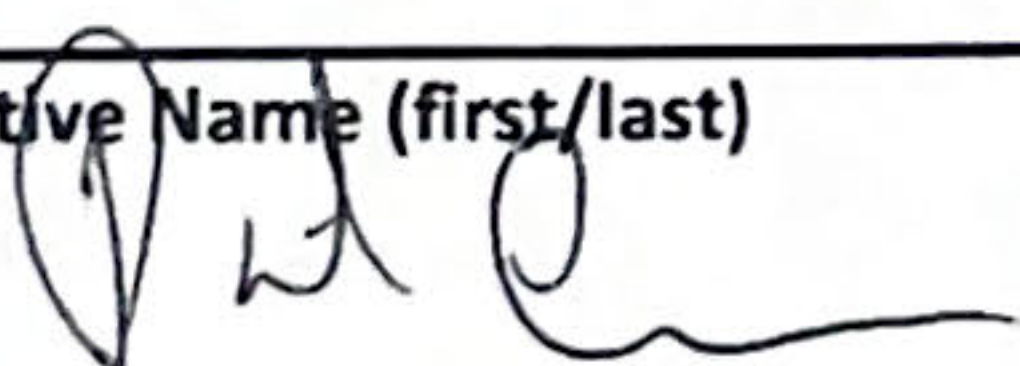


Authorized Employer:

I Peter Caravella, MD, declare under penalty of perjury, that I have read, understand and agree to the foregoing terms. I further understand that failure to comply with the requirements listed in Section A may result in sanctions as described in section B above.

LV Surgery Associates PLLC

Employer Company/Business Name

<u>Peter Carevella, MD</u>	<u>Managing Partner</u>
Employer Representative Name (first/last)	Title
<u></u>	<u>8/10/26</u>
Employer Signature	Date

NOTARY PUBLIC

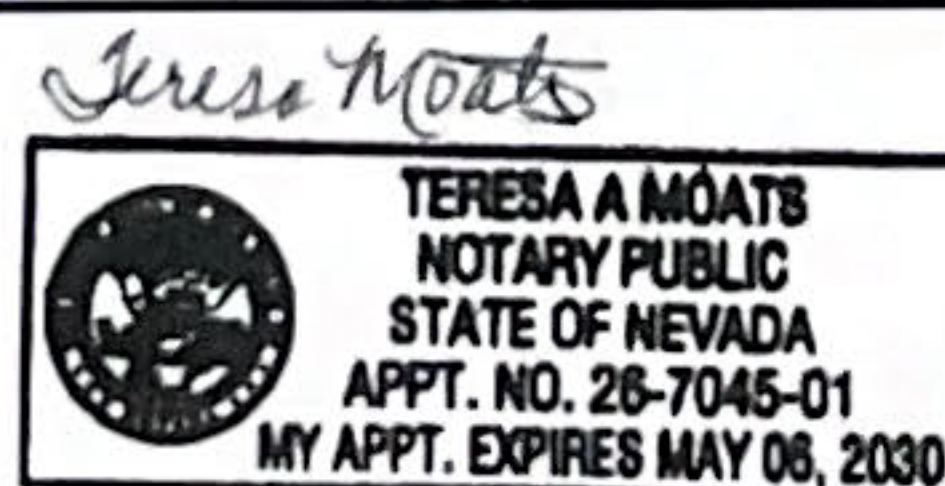
State of: Nevada

County of: Clark

Subscribed and Sworn before me on this 10th day of Aug, 2026

Notary Signature

My Commission Expires: May 06, 2030



Additional Practice Sites for Dr. Anna Axentiev J-1 Waiver Application

Practice Site #3: LV Surgery Associates PLLC
Practice Site #3: 1941 Jefferson St., Ste. 102, North Las Vegas, NV 89039
Number of Hours Candidate will work at this site: 5
Practice Site #3: HPSA ID: 1328632551. Score 17

Practice Site #4: Centennial Hills Hospital Center
Practice Site #4: 6900 N. Durango Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89149
Number of Hours Candidate will work at this site: 8
Practice Site #4: MUA/P ID: 07784

Practice Site #5: Spring Valley Hospital Medical Center
Practice Site #5: 5400 S. Rainbow Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89118
Number of Hours Candidate will work at this site: 5
Practice Site #5: HPSA ID# 1324377592, Score: 12

Practice Site #6: Valley Hospital Medical Center
Practice Site #6: 620 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89144
Number of Hours Candidate will work at this site: 4
Practice Site #6: HPSA ID# 1325536137, Score: 14; MUA: 06158

Practice Site #7: Henderson Hospital
1050 W Galleria Dr., Henderson , NV, 89011
HPSA ID: 1323637744; Score: 14
Number of Hours Candidate will work at this site: 4

Practice Site #8: Henderson West Hospital;
2075 East Flamingo, Las Vegas, NV, 89119
Number of Hours Candidate will work at this site: 4
HPSA ID: 1328484648, Score: 16

Facility Name: LVSA - Tenaya		
Time Period of Report: 07/06/2026 to 08/31/2026		
	Total # of visits for 12 months	% of visits per 12 months
Medicare visits	204	38.78%
Medicaid visits	76	14.45%
NV Check-up		
Sliding Fee Scale		
Indigent/Charity	12	2.28%
Private Insurance	214	40.68%
Other (please provide a breakdown of this percentage) Government	20	3.80%
Totals	526	100%
*For specialists/hospitalists:		
*Time period of report:	07/06/2026 to 08/31/2026	
*# of hospital/medical facility admissions for 6 months for the applicant specialty type		

☒ Please provide the number of providers (Full Time Equivalents, FTE) providing patient services at the practice site.

# of MDs by FTE	10
# of PAs by FTE	1
# of APNs by FTE	

Tab D:

☒ Describe and document the employer's recruitment and retention efforts. The employer must demonstrate that a suitable physician with US citizenship cannot be found through recruitment or any other means for at least two months prior to the submission of the application. Employers in rural communities may request a waiver of the two-month recruitment period in cases of emergency, where

Facility Name: LVSA - Jefferson		
Time Period of Report: 08/10/2026 to 08/31/2026		
	Total # of visits for 12 months	% of visits per 12 months
Medicare visits	59	32.42%
Medicaid visits	47	25.82%
NV Check-up		
Sliding Fee Scale		
Indigent/Charity	4	2.20%
Private Insurance	70	38.46%
Other (please provide a breakdown of this percentage) Government	2	1.10%
Totals	182	100%
*For specialists/hospitalists:		
*Time period of report:	08/10/2026 to 08/31/2026	
*# of hospital/medical facility admissions for 6 months for the applicant specialty type		

- ☒ Please provide the number of providers (Full Time Equivalents, FTE) providing patient services at the practice site.

# of MDs by FTE	8
# of PAs by FTE	1
# of APNs by FTE	0

Tab D:

- ☒ Describe and document the employer's recruitment and retention efforts. The employer must demonstrate that a suitable physician with US citizenship cannot be found through recruitment or any other means for at least two months prior to the submission of the application. Employers in rural communities may request a waiver of the two-month recruitment period in cases of emergency, where

Facility Name: Centennial Hills Hospital		
Time Period of Report: Past Year		
	Total # of visits for 12 months	% of visits per 12 months
Medicare visits	541	34
Medicaid visits	296	18
NV Check-up		
Sliding Fee Scale		
Indigent/Charity	59	4
Private Insurance	702	44
Other (please provide a breakdown of this percentage)	11	1
Totals	1609	100
*For specialists/hospitalists:		
*Time period of report:		
*# of hospital/medical facility admissions for 6 months for the applicant specialty type		

☐ Please provide the number of providers (Full Time Equivalents, FTE) providing patient services at the practice site.

# of MDs by FTE	
# of PAs by FTE	
# of APNs by FTE	

Tab D:

☐ Describe and document the employer's recruitment and retention efforts. The employer must demonstrate that a suitable physician with US citizenship cannot be found through recruitment or any other means for at least two months prior to the submission of the application. Employers in rural communities may request a waiver of the two-month recruitment period in cases of emergency, where

Facility Name: Spring Valley Hospital		
Time Period of Report: Past year		
	Total # of visits for 12 months	% of visits per 12 months
Medicare visits	474	37
Medicaid visits	295	23
NV Check-up		
Sliding Fee Scale	432	34
Indigent/Charity		
Private Insurance	67	5
Other (please provide a breakdown of this percentage)	16	1
Totals	1284	100
*For specialists/hospitalists:		
*Time period of report:		
*# of hospital/medical facility admissions for 6 months for the applicant specialty type		

☐ Please provide the number of providers (Full Time Equivalents, FTE) providing patient services at the practice site.

# of MDs by FTE	
# of PAs by FTE	
# of APNs by FTE	

Tab D:

☐ Describe and document the employer's recruitment and retention efforts. The employer must demonstrate that a suitable physician with US citizenship cannot be found through recruitment or any other means for at least two months prior to the submission of the application. Employers in rural communities may request a waiver of the two-month recruitment period in cases of emergency, where

Facility Name: Valley Hospital		
Time Period of Report: past 6 months		
	Total # of visits for 12 months	% of visits per 12 months
Medicare visits	48	8 %
Medicaid visits	344	57 %
NV Check-up		
Sliding Fee Scale		
Indigent/Charity	59	9.7 %
Private Insurance	145	24 %
Other (please provide a breakdown of this percentage)	9	1.5%
Totals	604	100%
*For specialists/hospitalists:		
*Time period of report:	past 6 months	
*# of hospital/medical facility admissions for 6 months for the applicant specialty type	604	

☐ Please provide the number of providers (Full Time Equivalents, FTE) providing patient services at the practice site.

# of MDs by FTE	
# of PAs by FTE	
# of APNs by FTE	

Tab D:

☐ Describe and document the employer's recruitment and retention efforts. The employer must demonstrate that a suitable physician with US citizenship cannot be found through recruitment or any other means for at least two months prior to the submission of the application. Employers in rural communities may request a waiver of the two-month recruitment period in cases of emergency, where

Facility Name: Henderson Hospital		
Time Period of Report:		
	Total # of visits for 12 months	% of visits per 12 months
Medicare visits	555	31
Medicaid visits	363	20
NV Check-up		
Sliding Fee Scale		
Indigent/Charity	50	3
Private Insurance	804	44
Other (please provide a breakdown of this percentage)	35	2
Totals	1807	100
*For specialists/hospitalists:		
*Time period of report:		
*# of hospital/medical facility admissions for 6 months for the applicant specialty type		

☐ Please provide the number of providers (Full Time Equivalents, FTE) providing patient services at the practice site.

# of MDs by FTE	
# of PAs by FTE	
# of APNs by FTE	

Tab D:

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Facility Name: West Henderson		
Time Period of Report: Past year to date		
	Total # of visits for 12 months	% of visits per 12 months
Medicare visits	138	30
Medicaid visits	54	12
NV Check-up		
Sliding Fee Scale		
Indigent/Charity	6	1%
Private Insurance	248	54%
Other (please provide a breakdown of this percentage)	8	2
Totals	460	100
*For specialists/hospitalists:		
*Time period of report:		
*# of hospital/medical facility admissions for 6 months for the applicant specialty type		

☐ Please provide the number of providers (Full Time Equivalents, FTE) providing patient services at the practice site.

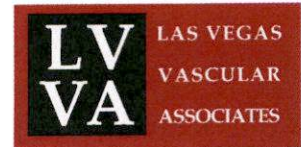
# of MDs by FTE	
# of PAs by FTE	
# of APNs by FTE	

Tab D:

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**LAS VEGAS
SURGICAL
ASSOCIATES**



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**Jordan T. Shively, DO, FACS
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Dustin Baldwin, MD
Colton Lee, MD
Hassan Hashmi, MD
Melissa Miles, MD**

August 7, 2026

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Nevada Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program
Primary Care Office
4150 Technology Way, Suite 300
Carson City, NV 89706-2009

J-1 WAIVER APPLICATION – STATE 30 PROGRAM

RE: Request that the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) act as an interested government agency in recommending to the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that a J-1 waiver be granted to Dr. Anna Axentiev to work as a Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgeon for LV Surgery Associates PLLC

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you in advance for taking the time to review our request for the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) to act as an interested government agency, in recommending to the U.S. Department of State and USCIS that Dr. Anna Axentiev ("Dr. Axentiev") be granted a waiver of the two-year home residence requirement to permit her to work for three years as a hepatobiliary and pancreatic ("HPB") Surgeon with LV Surgery Associates PLLC ("LVSA").

Dr. Axentiev has accepted our offer to work with our organization. She will work at three LVSA offices and several local hospitals. She will work at the following locations:

- LVSA, 7220 S. Cimarron Road, Ste. 100, Las Vegas, NV 89113 (MUA/P ID#: 1324377592, Score 12);
- LVSA, 3150 N. Tenaya Dr., Ste. 480, Las Vegas, NV 89128 (HPSA ID: 1321146138, Score: 16);
- LVSA, 1941 Jefferson St., Ste. 102, North Las Vegas, NV 89039 (HPSA ID: 1328632551, Score 17);
- Centennial Hills Hospital Center, 6900 N. Durango Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89149 (MUA/P ID: 07784);
- Spring Valley Hospital Medical Center, 5400 S. Rainbow Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89118 (HPSA ID # 1324377592, Score: 12);
- Valley Hospital Medical Center, 620 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89144 (HPSA ID # 1325536137, Score: 14, MUA: 06158);
- Henderson Hospital: 1050 W Galleria Dr., Henderson, NV, 89011 (HPSA ID: 1323637744; Score: 14)
- Henderson West Hospital; 2075 East Flamingo, Las Vegas, NV, 89119 (HPSA ID: 1328484648, Score: 16)

All of the facilities are in areas that have been designated by the Department of Health and Human Services as Health Professional Shortage Areas (“HPSAs”) or Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs).

Hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgeons diagnose and perform complex, often robotic or laparoscopic, procedures on the liver, pancreas, gallbladder, and bile ducts. They perform complex resections (removals), tumor ablations, and reconstructions, often using minimally invasive or robotic techniques for conditions like cancer, cysts, and gallbladder disorders. They manage both benign conditions and cancers, working in multidisciplinary teams to provide comprehensive inpatient/outpatient care, research, and education; and provide professional medical care to patients in accordance with professional standards of quality and practice protocol and policies as adopted by Las Vegas Surgery Associates.

I. Background on LV Surgery Associates PLLC

LV Surgery Associates PLLC (“LVSA”) is a multi-specialty surgical group that is unique to the Las Vegas area because we are able to offer services across a broad range of surgical specialties including hepatobiliary and pancreatic, colon, hernia, robotic, and weight loss surgery. Robotic surgery is helping to drive the growth of minimally invasive surgery and has become a highly important medical technique because it enables patients to recover more quickly. LVSA is a group practice, and one of our physicians is always on call and can answer questions or take care of acute surgical emergencies when they arise.

LVSA is proud to treat all patients regardless of their ability to pay. We accept Medicare, Medicaid, and S-CHIP assignment, use a sliding fee scale, and do not charge more than the usual and customary rate prevailing in the geographic area in which our services are provided.

II. LVSA, Clark, and Nye Counties require Dr. Axentiev’s HPB Surgical services.

Because of the demographics of the community that we serve in the facilities listed above, we desperately need additional physicians who will treat our patients. According to the U.S.

Census Bureau, Clark County is ranked as the most populous county in Nevada with over 70% of the state's population. Additionally, both Clark County and Nye County have a higher rate of poverty and a lower median household income than the state of Nevada overall and the United States overall.¹ Clark and Nye Counties are medically underserved, with patient to primary care physician ratios worse than the state of Nevada as a whole and the United States as a whole.² Additionally, Clark and Nye Counties are ranked among the least healthy counties in Nevada in terms of Health Factors.³ The residents of Clark and Nye Counties suffer from higher rates of smoking, physical inactivity, and food insecurity than the state average, which are considered risk factors for hepatobiliary and pancreatic diseases.⁴ Indeed, one out of three residents of Nye County have limited access to healthy foods, compared to 6% in the state of Nevada overall and the United States overall.⁵

LVSA has several surgeons with hospital privileges on staff, but we desperately need more hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgeons like Dr. Axentiev to meet the needs of our patients and provide life-saving medical care to the most vulnerable members of our community. We have several vacancies for hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgeons at LVSA, as this specialty is in high demand. It is essential that we add Dr. Axentiev to our team to mitigate the human and economic toll posed by hepatobiliary and pancreatic diseases. Diseases associated with the pancreas, liver and bile duct can be life-threatening. HPB surgeons treat liver cancer and pancreatic cancer, both of which have low survival rates and are leading causes of cancer death worldwide.⁶ HPB surgeons also treat cirrhosis, fatty liver disease, gallstones, gallbladder disease, gallbladder cancer, Gilbert's syndrome, hepatitis, jaundice, and pancreatitis. Even when non-fatal, hepatobiliary and pancreatic diseases can severely impair an individual's quality of life and ability to work. They impose a heavy economic burden in terms of loss of work productivity and healthcare costs.⁷

¹ *QuickFacts United States; Nevada; Clark County, Nevada; Nye County, Nevada*, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU (2025), <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/NV,clarkcountynevada,nyecountynevada/PST045225>.

² *Clark, Nevada*, ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS AND ROADMAPS, (2025) <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/nevada/clark?year=2025>; *Nye, Nevada*, ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS AND ROADMAPS, (2025) <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/nevada/nye?year=2025>

³ *Id.*

⁴ Richard Burkhart, *Pancreatic Cancer Risk Factors*, JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE, <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/pancreatic-cancer/pancreatic-cancer-risk-factors>; Lonardo A, Zheng MH, Weiskirchen R. *Food insecurity is an emerging risk factor for liver disease: a scoping review*. EXPERT REV GASTROENTEROL HEPATOL. 2025 Sep;19(9):1033-1049.

⁵ *Nye, Nevada*, ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS AND ROADMAPS, (2025) <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/nevada/nye?year=2025>

⁶ *Cancer Stat Facts: Pancreatic Cancer*, NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, 2025. <https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/pancreas.html> *Cancer Stat Facts: Liver and Intrahepatic Bile Duct Cancer*, NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, 2025. *Cancer Stat Facts: Pancreatic Cancer*, NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, 2025.

⁷ Peery AF, Murphy CC, Anderson C, Jensen ET, Deutsch-Link S, Egberg MD, Lund JL, Subramaniam D, Dellon ES, Sperber AD, Palsson OS, Pate V, Baron TH, Moon AM, Shaheen NJ, Sandler RS. *Burden and Cost of Gastrointestinal, Liver, and Pancreatic Diseases in the United States: Update 2024*. GASTROENTEROLOGY. 2025 May;168(5):1000-1024

LVSA has faced significant challenges in recruiting hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgeons to our medically underserved area. We continually strive to provide better access and improved healthcare to the citizens of our community. As such, we have been actively engaged in extensive recruitment efforts, including through job postings on the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA), the professional organization for hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgeons and specialists. Despite these efforts, we were unable to locate a qualified U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident for the position of hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgeon.

We were very fortunate to find Dr. Axentiev, an exceptionally talented physician who has agreed to a three-year employment agreement, to provide a minimum of 40 hours per week of patient care as a hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgeon with our organization. Dr. Anna Axentiev obtained her medical degree in 2020 from the Ross University School of Medicine in The Dominica. In June 2025, Dr. Axentiev completed a Residency in General Surgery at Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. She is currently working as a Fellow in HPB/Complex GI Surgery at AdventHealth in Tampa, Florida, which she expects to complete in July 2026. Dr. Axentiev holds a certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates and has passed USMLE Steps 1, 2, and 3. Dr. Axentiev is eligible for a medical license from the state of Nevada.

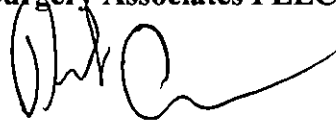
Dr. Axentiev would be an invaluable asset to our practice and to our community as she will be instrumental in providing life-saving care to our most vulnerable and medically underserved population. With the addition of Dr. Axentiev to our staff, we will be able to continue to provide essential health care services to the members of our community.

III. Conclusion

We hope that you agree that a waiver of Dr. Axentiev's two-year home residence requirement is in the interest of the citizens of Clark and Nye County, Nevada, and we respectfully request the favorable adjudication of the enclosed application. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or our attorney, Alison P. Hitz, at (415) 984-8563 or by email at ahitz@clarkhill.com.

Sincerely yours,

LV Surgery Associates PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Caravella', written over the printed name.

Peter Caravella, M.D.
Managing Partner

Anna Axentiev, MD

TRAINING

HPB/Complex GI Surgery Fellowship (AHPBA–accredited), AdventHealth Tampa, FL	2025 – Current
General Surgery Residency, Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, MD	2020 – 2025

EDUCATION

Doctor of Medicine, High Honors, Ross University School of Medicine, Dominica	2016 – 2020
Bachelor of Science with Honors in Biology, York University, Toronto, Canada	2010 – 2014

CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

American Board of Surgery, Board Eligible (Qualifying Exam passed)	Jul 2025
State of Florida Medical License ME173624, Active	Apr 2025
Intuitive da Vinci Robotic Surgery Certificate, Intuitive Surgical	Jun 2025
ECFMG Certificate	Apr 2020

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Publications:

1. **Axentiev A**, Shmelev A, Cunningham SC. Predictors of In-Hospital Mortality Following Pancreatectomy. *Cureus*. 2023 Sep 23;15(9):e45830. doi:10.7759/cureus.45830
2. **Axentiev A**, Shehzad B, Bernescu I. Appendiceal Inversion Presenting as a Cecal Polypoid Mass on Screening Colonoscopy: A Case Report and Review of Available Diagnostic Adjuncts to Differentiate Benign from Malignant Colorectal Pathology. *Cureus*. 2023; 15(3): e35645. doi:10.7759/cureus.35645
3. **Axentiev A**, Rozik M, Slama E, Setya V. Immunoglobulin Light Chain Amyloidosis Presenting as Inferior Vena Cava Thrombosis. *Am Surg*. 2023;89(6):2788-2790. doi:10.1177/00031348211050834
4. Dabek RJ, Pina NA, Sheber BA, **Axentiev A**, Scott MC. A Case Report of Delayed Post-operative Angioedema Associated with Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitor Use. *Cureus*. 2021; 13(10): e18800. doi:10.7759/cureus.18800
5. Shmelev A, **Axentiev A**, Hossain MB, Cunningham SC. Predictors of Same-Admission Cholecystectomy (SA CCY) for Mild, Acute, Biliary Pancreatitis. *HPB (Oxford)*. 2021; 20:S1365-182X(21)00102-7. doi:10.1016/j.hpb.2021.04.002
6. Akbiek M, Gandhi A, Rojas E, Gillenwater S, **Axentiev A**, Daya A, Hadeh A. Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis and P-ANCA Glomerulonephritis Post Silica Exposure. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*. 2019;199:A1801
7. Chan AW, Pello A, Kitchen J, **Axentiev A**, Virtanen JI, Liu A, Hemminki E. Association of Trial Registration with Reporting of Primary Outcomes in Protocols and Publications. *JAMA*. 2017;318(17):1709-1711. doi:10.1001/jama.2017.13001
8. Coulthard AB, Taylor-Kamall RW, Hallson G, **Axentiev A**, Sinclair DA, Honda BM, Hilliker AJ. Meiotic Recombination in Suppressed Near the Histone-Defined Border of Euchromatin and Heterochromatin on Chromosome 2L of *Drosophila melanogaster*. *Genome*. 2016;59(4):289-294. doi:10.1139/gen-2015-0171

Book Chapters:

1. **Axentiev A.** Cunningham SC. (2025). Management of Acute Cholangitis. In Cameron JL, Cameron AM (Eds.), *15th edition of CURRENT SURGICAL THERAPY*. Elsevier.

Presentations:

1. Kumar S, **Axentiev A.** Ross SB, Sucandy I. (Sep, 2025). Resection of Type IV Perihilar Cholangiocarcinoma. Moving Toward the Most Complex Minimally Invasive Technique in Biliary Cancer Surgery. Video Presentation, ILLS Webinar - The Cutting Edge: ILLS Video Showcase (virtual)
2. **Axentiev A.** Vallis J, Kerr J, Quigley S, Hogan M, Cunningham SC. (Mar, 2025). Hyperkinetic Gallbladder: Significance of High Ejection Fraction in Functional Gallbladder Disorder. The Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA) 2025 Annual Meeting, Miami, FL, USA
3. **Axentiev A.** Baron E, Quadri HS, Cunningham SC. (Apr, 2024). The Gallbladder Reporting and Data System (GB-RADS): Retrospective Application to a Real-World Data Set. The Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA) 2024 Annual Meeting, Miami, FL, USA
4. Baron E, **Axentiev A.** Matoian B, Bernescu I, Cunningham SC, Quadri HS. (Apr, 2023). Limited Resection versus Right Hemicolectomy for Stage I-III Appendiceal Cancer: a National Cancer Database Analysis. Chesapeake Colorectal Society 2023 Annual Scientific Spring Meeting, VA, USA
5. **Axentiev A.** Shehzad B, Bernescu I. (Apr, 2023). Appendiceal Inversion Presenting as a Cecal Polypoid Mass on Screening Colonoscopy: A Case Report and Review of Available Diagnostic Adjuncts to Differentiate Benign from Malignant Colorectal Pathology. Chesapeake Colorectal Society 2023 Annual Scientific Spring Meeting, VA, USA
6. **Axentiev A.** Avruch J, Meier RP, Maluf D, Bhati C. (Mar, 2023). Role of Liver Transplantation in Acute Liver Failure due to Exertional Heat Stroke. The Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA) 2023 Annual Meeting, Miami, FL, USA
7. **Axentiev A.** Rozik M, Slama E, Setya V. (Aug, 2021). Immunoglobulin Light Chain Amyloidosis Presenting as Inferior Vena Cava Thrombosis. Southeastern Surgical Congress 2022 Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, USA
8. Chan AW, Pello A, Kitchen J, **Axentiev A.** Virtanen JI, Liu A, Hemminki E. (May, 2017). Registration and Publication of Primary Outcomes: Inception Cohort Study of Clinical Trial Protocols. Ross University School of Medicine Research Day and Symposium, Picard, Dominica

INVITED LECTURES

1. **Axentiev A.** Han J. *Cystic Liver Diseases*. SSAT Complex GS Fellowship Virtual Grand Rounds Webinar; Dec 2025.
2. **Axentiev A.** *Robotic Surgery: Past, Present, and Future*. Department of Surgery Grand Rounds, Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, MD; April 2025.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1. Lecturer, *Resident and Medical Student Teaching Conference*: “Soft tissue infections,” Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, MD (Dec, 2023)
2. Lecturer, *Resident and Medical Student Teaching Conference*: “Benign Biliary Disease,” Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, MD (Jul, 2023)
3. Lecturer, *Resident and Medical Student Teaching Conference*: “Hepatobiliary Cancer,” Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, MD (Nov, 2022)
4. Lecturer, *Resident and Medical Student Teaching Conference*: “Oncology and Tumor Biology,”

Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, MD (Jul, 2022)

5. Lecturer, *Resident and Medical Student Teaching Conference*: “Retroperitoneal Trauma,” Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, MD (Feb, 2022)
6. Lecturer, *Resident and Medical Student Teaching Conference*: “Transplant Immunology,” Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, MD (Mar, 2021)
7. Lecturer, *Cardiovascular ICU Resident Teaching Conference*: “Native Valve Infective Endocarditis,” Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD (Dec, 2020)
8. Lecturer, *Medical Student Lecture Series*: “Acute Mesenteric Ischemia, an Abdominal Emergency,” Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, MD (Jul, 2019)
9. Lecturer, *Resident and Medical Student Teaching Conference*: “Reducing Rates of Postoperative Urinary Tract Infections,” Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, MD (Jul, 2019)
10. Lecturer, *Medical Student Lecture Series*: “Abnormal Uterine Bleeding Diagnosis and Management,” Jackson North Medical Center, Miami, FL (Dec, 2018)

LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTEES

Robotic Curriculum Coordinator, Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital	2023 – 2025
Graduate Medical Education Committee Member, Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital	2020 – 2024
Clinical Student Government Association Member, Ross University School of Medicine	2018 – 2019
Canadian Students Society President, Ross University School of Medicine	May – Aug 2017
Student Ambassador, Ross University School of Medicine	Mar – Aug 2017
Academic Research Society Member, Ross University School of Medicine	2016 – 2017

HONORS AND AWARDS

Recognition Award, Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital <i>Awarded for being a positive inspiration to others</i>	Jun 2023
Ross University School of Medicine Scholarship, Empower Scholarship Fund <i>Awarded in recognition of dedication and success in pursuit of educational goals</i>	May 2019
Dean’s List, Ross University School of Medicine <i>Awarded for excellent academic performance in Medicine Foundations</i>	Jul 2017
Canadian Founder Scholarship, Ross University School of Medicine <i>Merit-based scholarship awarded for academic excellence</i>	May 2016
Volunteer Recognition Award, Mount Sinai Hospital <i>Awarded for committed service and care for patients and families</i>	May 2016
Dean’s Honor Roll, York University <i>Awarded for excellence in academics</i>	Apr 2014
Continuing Student Scholarship, York University <i>Awarded for achieving outstanding academic results</i>	Nov 2013

VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Organizer, Community Health Fairs, Ross University School of Medicine, Dominica	2016 – 2017
Volunteer, Center for Fertility/Reproductive Health, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, CA	2015 – 2016
Volunteer, Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, Toronto, CA	2012 – 2016
Volunteer, Endocrinology in Pregnancy Clinic, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, CA	2014 – 2015

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association

J-1 Physician Visa Waiver Program Application Attestation

Candidates Information:

Full Name: Christian Charles Ramirez Trajano, MD

Place of Birth: Philippines

Country of Citizenship: Philippines

DOS Case Number: 2043924

Residency Discipline: Family Medicine

Residency Timeframe: June 2023 to June 2026

Location of Residency: University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, TX

Fellowship/Specialty: N/A.

Fellowship Timeframe: Start Date to End Date

Location of Fellowship: Name of School, State.

Employers Information:

Employer's Full Name: Saint Mary's Medical Group, Inc.

Employer's Address: 411 W. 6th St. , Reno, NV 89503

Employer's Point of Contact Name: Crystal Lopez, CEO

Employer's Email Address: clopez12@primehealthcare.com

Employer's Phone Number: 775-770-7450

Official Legal Representative Information:

Law Firm Name: Siskind Susser, PC

Law Firm Address: 1028 Oakhaven Road, Memphis, TN 38119

Point of Contact Name: Adam Cohen, partner.

Point of Contact Email Address: acohen@visalaw.com

Point of Contact Phone Number: 901-682-6455

Practice Site Information:

Practice Site #1: Saint Mary's Medical Group

Practice Site #1 Address: 645 N. Arlington Ave. Reno, NV 89503

Number of Hours Candidate will practice at site per week: 40

Select all that apply:

- ☒ In a HPSA HPSA #-1323717372 ☒ In a MUA/MUP MUA #02096 ☐ Flex Spot
- ☐ Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) ☐ Tribal Health Center
- ☐ Rural Health Clinic (RHC) ☐ Primary Care Clinic for a Rural Health Hospital

***For specialists, hospitalists and/or flex locations please fill out the below section of the form that pertains to you.**

Specialist Information for site #1: N/A

Current specialist to patient ratio at facility: Current Ratio.

Optimum specialist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Current number of specialist vacancies: Current Vacancies.

Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Hospitalist Information for site #1: N/A

Current hospitalist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Optimum hospitalist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Current number of hospitalist vacancies: Current Vacancies.

Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Flex Spot Information for site #1: N/A

Percentage of population served at or below 200% federal poverty level: % under 200% FPL

Wait times for serving this population: Wait times.

Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Current physician to patient ratio at facility: Current Ratio.

Optimum physician to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Please list any barriers to serve this population: Click or tap here to enter text.

Additional Practice Sites: N/A

Practice Site Information:

Practice Site #2: Name of Practice Site 2.

Practice Site #2 Address: Address of Practice Site 2.

Number of Hours Candidate will practice at site per week: Number of hours at site 2.

Select all that apply:

- ☐ In a HPSA HPSA # ☐ In a MUA/MUP MUA # ☐ Flex Spot
- ☐ Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) ☐ Tribal Health Center
- ☐ Rural Health Clinic (RHC) ☐ Primary Care Clinic for a Rural Health Hospital

***For specialists, hospitalists and/or flex locations please fill out the below section of the form that pertains to you.**

Specialist Information for site #2: N/A

Current specialist to patient ratio at facility: Current Ratio.

Optimum specialist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Current number of specialist vacancies: Current Vacancies.

Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Hospitalist Information for site #2: N/A

Current hospitalist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Optimum hospitalist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Current number of hospitalist vacancies: Current Vacancies.

Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Flex Spot Information for site #2: N/A

Percentage of population served at or below 200% federal poverty level: % under 200% FPL

Wait times for serving this population: Wait times.

Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Current physician to patient ratio at facility: Current Ratio.

Optimum physician to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Please list any barriers to serve this population: Click or tap here to enter text.

If there are more than 2 practice sites, please add all additional practice locations with the above information, at the end of this form.

Employer and Candidate, seek a letter of support from the Physician Visa Waiver Program and requests the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to forward the J-1 Visa Waiver application to the U.S. Department of State as a State Health Agency request, per DS-3035. Employer and Candidate have agreed to comply with the duties set forth in Chapter 439A of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) and to cooperate with the Physician Visa Waiver Program.

In signing below, an authorized representative of the Employer and the Candidate declares under penalty of perjury that all statements submitted with this application are true and accurate and this application complies with the requirements of NRS 439A.175 and NAC 439.730 including as follows:

All practices sites where the Candidate will practice:

- ☒ Are located in a federally designated Primary Care HPSA, MUA/P or a site approved by the state as a geographic exception or a flex slot (Public Law 108-441) to address the underserved;
- ☒ Accept Medicare, Medicaid assignment and Nevada Checkup;

- ✓ Offer a sliding discount fee schedule and a minimum fee based on family size & income; and
- ✓ Has a policy stating all patients will receive treatment, regardless of their ability to pay which is either posted at the site or provided to the patients.

The contract between the Employer and the Candidate provides the following:

- ✓ Candidate agrees to provide services during 3 -year waiver obligation.
- ✓ Candidate will provide services 40 hours per week minimum plus on-call time.
- ✓ The salary meets or exceeds the prevailing wage for that area and for physicians of that specialty as reported by the Foreign Labor Certification Center, Department of Labor, (<http://www.flcdatacenter.com>):
- ✓ The amount of time off for vacation, sick leave and for Continuing Medical Education is included. The employer shall maintain records to show the amount of time-off requested and the amount of time taken.
- ✓ Does not contain a “non-compete” clause that would prohibit the J-1 Visa Waiver physician from opening a new clinic or working in a clinic in that shortage area upon completing the three-year commitment.
- ✓ Conditions for termination of the contract, for both the physician and employer, are included. A “no-cause” termination is not allowed.
- ✓ Any new contracts or amendments during the 3-year obligation will be sent to the PCO for review and approval before signature.
- ✓ Agreement to begin employment at the stated practice site within 90 days of receiving a waiver from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). During the 90 days, the physician must obtain the required licenses from the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the State Board of Pharmacy, and any other licenses as may be required for the physician to practice medicine in Nevada; and
- ✓ A statement that the physician agrees to meet the requirements set forth in section 214(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Please note in accordance with NRS Chapter 239, all public records, the contents not otherwise declared by law to be confidential, shall be open for inspection or to obtain copies.

PHYSICIAN Eligibility Requirements

- A. **Eligibility:** To be eligible for a letter of support by the Nevada Primary Care Office (PCO) within the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) a physician **must:**
1. Complete a residency or fellowship training program and intend to practice in Nevada for a minimum of three consecutive years.
 2. Submit all relevant application components
 3. Review and understand all terms included in the employment contract, including expectations for working hours, hospital rounds, and on-call requirements. The PCO has limited authority under NRS 439A.180 to ensure program requirements are met and cannot mediate labor disputes; therefore, the physician must review all contracts carefully before signing. Labor disputes or medical safety issues will be referred to the federal Department of Labor or to the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
 4. Agree to notify the PCO of the start date of employment using the New Arrival Form.
 5. Agree to review the Rights and Responsibilities presentation upon start of employment (presentation located online at Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Information, Instructions & Forms).
 6. Agree to report additional employment. Any additional or outside employment in which the J-1 Visa Waiver physician engages must be stipulated in the original contract or added to a new contract which must then be resigned by all parties and resubmitted to the Primary Care Office (PCO) for recommendation and for USCIS approval, if applicable.
 7. Agree to limit absence from the practice site to a maximum of 180 consecutive days. If the physician is absent from medical practice more than 180 consecutive days, the physician must submit an updated New Arrival Form to the DPBH, PCO.
 8. Agree to treat all clients regardless of ability to pay, accept Medicaid and Medicare patients on assignment, and use a sliding fee scale for low-income, uninsured individuals. The practice site must provide notice to the public, as evidenced by a sign in the waiting area regarding this policy.
 9. Agree to obtain, within sixty days of start date, an individual National Provider Identifier (NPI) from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which will be used on all health care claims.
 10. Agree to report practices within the practice site setting that do not meet the standards of care as established by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners. <http://www.medboard.nv.gov/>. NRS 41A.009 "Medical malpractice" defined. "Medical malpractice" means the failure of a physician, hospital or employee of a hospital, in rendering services, to use the reasonable care, skill or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances.
 11. Report semi-annually (April and October), via the Compliance form on the status of the physician services for

the previous six months and where those services were provided.

12. Agree to immediately report all changes to the work schedule, which will be in effect longer than three weeks, to the PCO on the appropriate change of status form Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Instruction, Information & Forms (nv.gov). These changes include, but are not limited to, a temporary assignment to another practice site, a decrease in hours at the practice site, an increase of call-time requirement, an increase in hospital-rounds time, and an increase in emergency room call. The most recent form on file will be used by the DPBH to assess whether the physician and employer are compliant with these policies and state law.
13. Notify the DPBH, PCO, in writing, thirty days prior to transfer, in the event of physician transfer from the approved facility to another facility within the medical practice or with another provider. The DPBH reserves the right to approve or disapprove the transfer.
14. Notify the DPBH, PCO, in writing, within thirty days of disciplinary action and/or termination. In the event of any emergency termination due to extreme circumstances affecting the health or safety of clients or other individuals, the DPBH must be notified, no later than twenty-four hours after the emergency termination.

B. Consequences of Default:

A physician is in default if, at any time, he or she does not meet the conditions listed in section A. The DPBH, PCO will monitor the physician and the medical practice. A physician found in violation of Nevada Revised Statutes 439A.130 to 439A.185 or Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 439A.700 to 439A.755 will incur the penalties specified under NAC 439A.750.

EMPLOYER Eligibility Requirements

A. **Eligibility:** To be eligible to employ a J-1 Visa Waiver physician, a medical practice must comply with these requirements:

1. Located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), a federally designated Medically Underserved Area or Population (MUA/P), or a “flex slot” documenting service to underserved populations, as verified by the state. Determine if locations are designated at the following link: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area>
2. The site must have been operating at least six months before requesting a physician under the J-1 visa waiver program.
3. Submit all relevant application components
4. Agree to review the Rights and Responsibilities presentation upon the start of employment (presentation located online at [Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Instruction, Information & Forms](#))
5. Report additional employment of the physician. Any additional or outside employment in which the J1 Visa Waiver physician engages must be stipulated in the original contract or added to a new contract which must then be resigned by all parties and resubmitted to the Primary Care Office (PCO) for recommendation for USCIS approval, if applicable.
6. The practice site must accept all patients regardless of ability to pay, accept Medicaid and Medicare on assignment, and use a sliding-fee scale based on federal poverty guidelines to discount services to lowincome uninsured persons. The medical practice must provide notice to the public that such a policy is in effect and apply these access standards to the entire medical practice, not simply to those patients treated by the J-1 Visa Waiver physician. These requirements should be in place for at least three months immediately preceding the request for waiver.
7. Agree that the physician will use an individual National Provider Identifier (NPI) from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on all Medicaid health care claims.
8. Report semi-annually (April and October), via the Compliance form on the status of the physician services for the previous six months and where those services were provided.
9. Agree to report practices within the practice site setting that do not meet the standards of care as established by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners. <http://www.medboard.nv.gov/>. NRS 41A.009 “Medical malpractice” defined. “Medical malpractice” means the failure of a physician, hospital or employee of a hospital, in rendering services, to use the reasonable care, skill or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances
10. Agree to immediately report all changes to the work schedule, which will be in effect longer than three

weeks, to the PCO on the appropriate change of status form Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Instruction, Information & Forms (nv.gov). These changes include, but are not limited to, a temporary assignment to another practice site, a decrease in hours at the practice site, an increase of call-time requirement, an increase in hospital-rounds time, and an increase in emergency room call. The most recent form on file will be used by the DPBH to assess whether the physician and employer are compliant with these policies and state law.

11. Notify the PCO, in writing, at least thirty days prior to a transfer from the approved facility to another facility within the medical practice. For a transfer outside the medical practice, the PCO must be notified, in writing, at the earliest opportunity. The PCO reserves the right to approve or disapprove all transfers.
12. Notify the PCO, in writing, within thirty days of disciplinary action and/or termination. In the event of any emergency termination due to extreme circumstances affecting the health or safety of clients or other individuals, the PCO must be notified no later than twenty-four hours after the emergency termination.
13. Understand that the PCO does not have the authority to mediate between employer and employees participating in the J-1 Visa Waiver program, or to enforce labor standards. Further, the PCO assumes no responsibility for negotiations or content of employment contracts or for termination of the contracts. If the PCO becomes aware of such issues, it will recommend seeking advice from an attorney or contacting the appropriate agency (i.e., Medicaid Fraud and Abuse, Department of Labor, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Medical Board of Examiners). The PCO will, however, investigate allegations of wrongdoing and issue a written determination of findings.

B. Consequences of Default:

An employer is in default if, at any time, he or she does not meet the conditions listed in section A. The DPBH, PCO will monitor the physician and the medical practice. An employer found in violation of Nevada Revised Statutes 439A.130 to 439A.185 or Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 439A.700 to 439A.755 will incur the penalties specified under NAC 439A.750.

By signing below, I hereby attest that the above requirements have been met and I hereby agree to abide by all the program policies and rules as described in NRS and NAC and as further required under the Rights and Responsibilities located at the Divisions website at: <http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/Conrad30/Conrad30-Home/>.

Candidate/Physician:

I CHRISTIAN CHARLES TRAJANO, declare under penalty of perjury, that I have read, understand and agree to the foregoing terms of the Nevada Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program Application Attestation. I further understand that failure to comply with the requirements listed in Section A may result in sanctions as described in section B above.

CHRISTIAN CHARLES TRAJANO

PHYSICIAN

Candidate Name (first/last)

Title

Candidate Signature

Date

08/28/20

NOTARY PUBLIC

State of:

County of:

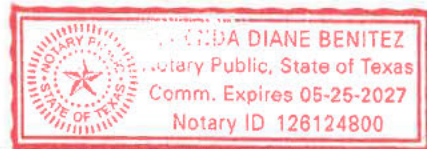
Subscribed and sworn before me on this Aug day of 28, 2020

Brenda Diane Benitez

Notary Signature

My Commission Expires:

5-25-2027



Authorized Employer:

I Crystal Lopez, declare under penalty of perjury, that I have read, understand and agree to the foregoing terms. I further understand that failure to comply with the requirements listed in Section A may result in sanctions as described in section B above.

Saint Mary's Medical Group

Employer Company/Business Name

Crystal Lopez

Executive Director

Employer Representative Name (first/last)

Title

Crystal Lopez

08/28/2026

Employer Signature

Date

NOTARY PUBLIC

State of: Nevada

County of: Washoe

Subscribed and Sworn before me on this 28 day of Aug, 2026

Johanna Watt

Notary Signature

My Commission Expires:

4/26/2028



Facility Name: St. Mary's Medical Group- CFH PCP		
Time Period of Report: 7/31/2025-8/31/2026		
	Total # of visits for 12 months	% of visits per 12 months
Medicare visits	467	29%
Medicaid visits Traditional and Managed Care)	84	5%
NV Check-up	0	0%
Sliding Fee Scale	0	0%
Indigent/Charity	0	0%
Private Insurance	1,058	66%
Other (please provide a breakdown of this percentage)	self- pay- 5	0.03%
Totals	1,614	100%
*For specialists/hospitalists:		
*Time period of report:	N/A	
*# of hospital/medical facility admissions for 6 months for the applicant specialty type	N/A	

☐ Please provide the number of providers (Full Time Equivalents, FTE) providing patient services at the practice site.

# of MDs by FTE	2
# of PAs by FTE	
# of APNs by FTE	1

Tab D:

☐ Describe and document the employer's recruitment and retention efforts. The employer must demonstrate that a suitable physician with US citizenship cannot be found through recruitment or any other means for at least two months prior to the submission of the application. Employers in rural communities may request a waiver of the two-month recruitment period in cases of emergency, where



May 8, 2026

Primary Care Office
4150 Technology Way
Suite 300
Carson City, NV 89706-2009

Re: Employer Letter – Christian Charles R. Trajano, M.D.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing on behalf of Saint Mary's Medical Group, Inc., to request that the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health act as the interested government agency and recommend a J-1 waiver for **Christian Charles R. Trajano, M.D.** Saint Mary's Medical Group, Inc. intends to hire Dr. Trajano to provide care at the following facility:

- Name of practice site 1: Saint Mary's Medical Group
- Physical address of practice site 1: 645 N. Arlington Ave., Reno, NV 89503
HPSA ID: 1323717372 HPSA Score: 14 MUA/P: 02096
- Name and title of contact person: Crystal Lopez, Executive Director, Saint Mary's Medical Group
- Telephone number: 775-770-7450
- Fax number: 775-770-7369
- E-mail address for contact person: clopez12@primehealthcare.com
- Employment Mailing address for all practice sites: 411 West 6th Street, Reno, NV 89503

Saint Mary's Medical Group is a fully integrated Medical Group which offers a robust line of services including primary care, urgent care, and specialty. Designed to unite a team of board-certified physicians, specialists and nurse practitioners, the Medical Group is focused on preventive care. Saint Mary's Medical Group includes physicians who specialize in family practice, osteopathic physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners. As a long-standing community partner, Saint Mary's Medical Group is dedicated to ensuring the health and wellness of northern Nevada remains strong.

Recent data shows that 1.9 million Nevadans reside in a primary care health professional shortage area (HPSA) or 67.3% of the state's population, specifically 335,222 Washoe County residents live in a primary care HPSA (70.9%). (*Health Workforce Supply and Demand in Nevada: Implications for Network Adequacy M. Tabor Griswold, PhD Co-Director, Nevada Health Workforce Research Center Office of Statewide Initiatives University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine*). This indicates that there is a strong need for healthcare providers in Washoe county, hiring Dr. Trajano will help alleviate this major problem.

In addition to Washoe county being in a health professional shortage area, the state also has a problem with an aging physician workforce and a high number of inactive providers. Close to 17% of the licensed doctors in Nevada are inactive, and these are providers who are retired or are not currently practicing medicine.

The growing age of the providers in Nevada poses another problem to the physician shortage in the state.

Saint Mary's Medical Group | 411 W. Sixth Street, Reno, NV 89503 | www.saintmarysreno.com

Member of Prime Healthcare



Saint Mary's
Medical Group

In some of Nevada's counties, the average age of allopathic doctors is 61.2 and the average age of osteopathic doctors is 57.7. These numbers are higher than the national average of 52.9 for allopathic and 49.7 for osteopathic physicians, respectively (Physician numbers are on the rise, though Nevada still well below the national average. ([Jun;2023]. 2018. <https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/physician-numbers-are-on-the-rise-though-nevada-still-well-below-the-national-average>). It is extremely important to have organizations like ours continuously hire new and younger physicians to combat this problem.

The scarcity of residency positions in Nevada's medical schools drives many graduates to seek residency training opportunities elsewhere, leading to a reduced likelihood of their return to practice within the state. (Do K, Do J, Kawana E, Zhang R. Nevada's Healthcare Crisis: A Severe Shortage of Physicians and Residency Positions. *Cureus*. 2023 Jul 11;15(7):e41700. doi: 10.7759/cureus.41700. PMID: 37575733; PMCID: PMC10414134.) Currently, Nevada has limited residency training programs and while the state is doing its best to create more programs, there is no guarantee that those graduating residents would remain in the state.

Our organization is fully committed to making every effort to retain Dr. Trajano for the long term. We intend to integrate him into the community and to support his professional development so that he can grow into a leadership role within our organization over time.

This waiver should be granted because Washoe County continues to experience a well-documented shortage of primary care providers, particularly in medically underserved and low-income areas. The addition of a family medicine physician will expand access to comprehensive primary care for children, adults, and seniors who currently face long wait times, difficulty establishing a regular primary care provider, and limited options for culturally and linguistically appropriate services. This physician will help manage high rates of chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and mental health disorders that are often poorly controlled due to lack of continuous primary care.

By increasing availability of same-day and routine appointments, this family physician will help reduce preventable emergency department visits and avoidable hospitalizations, improve care coordination, and lower overall healthcare costs in the community. The physician's presence will also strengthen preventive care, immunizations, women's health services, and behavioral health integration, directly addressing gaps identified in county and state health needs assessments. Granting this waiver will therefore respond to a clear and pressing unmet healthcare needs in Washoe County and improve health outcomes for underserved and vulnerable populations.

Washoe County faces a significant shortage of primary care services, especially in its rural and low-income neighborhoods, leaving many residents effectively medically underserved. A family medicine physician is urgently needed to provide comprehensive, continuous care across the lifespan, manage chronic disease, and improve access to preventive services for at-risk populations. By practicing in Washoe County, such a physician will help reduce barriers to care, decrease inappropriate emergency department utilization, and address health disparities that disproportionately affect underserved families and communities in the region.

In light of the current circumstances and the future health needs of Washoe County, recommending a waiver for Dr. Trajano would clearly and substantially benefit the citizens of Nevada and the patients served at our medical center locations in Washoe County.



Dr. Trajano's qualifications are well suited to the needs of our facilities. He obtained his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery in the Philippines (2015–2019), one of the country's most established and respected medical schools. He completed a rotating postgraduate internship at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (Quezon City, Metro Manila) from July 2019 to June 2020, where he took accurate histories and performed complete physical examinations, arrived at diagnostic impressions, and recommended treatment plans across multiple specialties, including internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics-gynecology, otolaryngology, ophthalmology, radiology, and rehabilitation medicine. Dr. Trajano meets the requirements of employment with Saint Mary's Medical Group.

We believe the recruitment of Dr. Trajano will be another big step towards improving the standards of patient care in Washoe County. We look forward to him joining our practice.

Sincerely,



Crystal Lopez, Executive Director
Saint Mary's Medical Group

CHRISTIAN CHARLES R. TRAJANO M.D.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

July 01, 2023
– Present

UTRGV Family Medicine Residency at Knapp Medical Center
(Mercedes, Texas)
Residency training

February 01, 2023
– March 31, 2023

The Medical City Emergency Department Non-Urgent
(Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines)
Autonomous practice as a licensed physician in the Philippines
Examine patients, make a diagnosis, and manage a range of medical issues that patients may present with in the Emergency Department.

October 01, 2022
– December 31, 2022

Primary Care Clinic of Hawaii
(Honolulu, Hawaii)
Preceptorship in Internal Medicine under Charlie Y. Sonido, MD
Conduct history and physical exams, recommend treatment and management, and actively participate in discussions, journal conferences, and case presentations under the guidance of Dr. Sonido to improve patient care.

September 01, 2022
– September 30, 2022

University of Tennessee Health Science Center
(Memphis, Tennessee)
Preceptorship in Internal Medicine under Eduardo C. Cabigao, MD
Discuss treatment options with Dr. Cabigao and make recommendations for patient management. I also conduct rounds, assist with ultrasound and suturing in the Emergency room at the Elvis Presley Memorial Trauma Center.

August 02, 2022
– August 31, 2022

Access Health & Avera Medical Group Family Health Center and Avera Queen of Peace Hospital
(Mitchell, South Dakota)
Preceptorship in Internal Medicine and Urgent Care under Lucio N. Margallo II, MD
Perform history and physical examination of primary care patients under the care of Dr. Margallo II. Discuss and recommend treatment options and management for each patient. Rounds on admitted patients in Avera Queen of Peace Hospital and athletes enrolled in Dakota Wesleyan University.

July 1, 2019
– June 30, 2020

Veterans Memorial Medical Center

Post-Graduate Internship

(Quezon city, Metro Manila, Philippines)

Take accurate histories and perform complete physical examinations, arrive with a diagnostic impression, and recommend treatment plan to the attending physician of various specialties in medicine. (Internal Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, OB-Gyne, Otolaryngology, Ophthalmology, Radiology, Rehabilitation Medicine)

March 3 – 29
2019

West Side Medical PC, City Dialysis Center, and Mount Sinai Morningside

(New York)

Elective in Internal Medicine under Rehana A. Zaman, MD

Rounds with Dr. Zaman at Mount Sinai Morningside and with her affiliated Dialysis Center, take histories of her patients in her clinic, and attend weekly conferences about interesting cases and advancement in Nephrology.

2014

SEAFDEC/AQD Binangonan Freshwater Station

Freshwater Aquaculture Internship

Assisted in conducting the maintenance, feeding and nursery of giant freshwater prawns for the continuity of the research.

EDUCATION

September 6, 2024

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Volunteer Instructor

Clinical Skills Year 2 Upper Extremity Physical Exam

August, 2015
– June 15, 2019

University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery

Doctor of Medicine

2012 – 2015

De La Salle University

Bachelor of Science in Biology

CERTIFICATIONS

2023 – 2024

Basic Life Support. Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support.
Pediatric Advanced Life Support

February 2023
– August 2023

Harvard Medical School Postgraduate Medical Education

Foundations of Clinical Research Program

6-month Certificate Program

2020 - Present

Physician Licensure Examination (Republic of the Philippines)
Licensed to practice Medicine in the Philippines

RESEARCH CONDUCTED

- **Association of Stigma and Resilience in Suicide Risk of HIV Patients (2019)**
Position: 3rd Author
Evaluated the relationship of HIV positive patient's resilience and suicide risk through a score-based survey.
- **Screening for the Antibacterial Activity of Plant Stem Extracts on Selected Species of Bacteria (2015)**
Position: 3rd Author
- Participated in the completion of **"Feed Development, Culture of Phytoplankton, Larval Rearing, Nursery and Grow-out Culture of Silver Therapon (*Leiopotherapon plumbeus*), Breeding of Giant Freshwater Prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*)" (2014)**
Position: Sub-Investigator
Evaluated the yield of reproduction, weight changes and growth of each cohort of Giant Freshwater Prawns among different combination feeds by counting prawn eggs under a microscope and weighing and measuring the length of each prawn every week.

ACHEIVEMENTS

2012 – 2015

Consistent Dean's Lister and Jose Rizal Honor Awardee

CO EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

2017 – 2018

UST Medicine Student Council – Auditor
- *Student Awards 2016 - 2017*

2017

Senior Member of Medical Missions Incorporated
- *Kadaupan Minor Medical Mission*
- *Amadeo Major Medical Mission*

2015 – 2016

Member of Asian Medical Students' Association

2012 – 2015

Member of Biology Majors Alliance of the Philippines
Member of Sociates Vitae

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Bilingual: Fluent in Filipino and English**