

MEDICAL SCHOOLS

There are 59 medical schools in Mexico which graduate approximately 8,000 students per year. The most renowned medical schools are the *Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM)*, whose main campus is in Mexico City, *Escuela Mexicana de Medicina* located in San Luis Potosí, *Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey* located in Monterrey, and the *Universidad la Salle* and the *Universidad Anáhuac* which are in Mexico City. There are several state universities which offer medical training such as the *Universidad del Estado de México*, *Universidad Autónoma de Puebla* and *Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara*.

TRAINING SERVICES FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

MEDICAL DOCTORS

There is a large pool of general physicians in Mexico and the system is not able to absorb all new graduates. Many physicians in the National Health Care System also maintain a private practice or other employment.

Hospitals within the National Health Care System provide on-going training for their medical doctors. Most physicians also attend national and international congresses and conferences to keep abreast of developments in their fields. The private hospitals do not generally offer skills up-grading seminars, courses or training.

The increasing availability of computers in Mexico is creating a market opportunity for training doctors to use this technology to access information and to support their medical practices. Teleconferencing and other interactive programs for training through electronic systems provide good opportunities for international medical training.

NURSES

Mexico is one of the few countries where physicians outnumber trained nurses. Nurses' pay is very low; it is, therefore, difficult to attract qualified people. As a result, there is a shortage of nurses throughout the health care system.

The usual training for nurses is secondary school combined with specialized training from government institutions, the *Cruz Roja*, Red Cross, the *Colegio Nacional de Enfermeras*, National School of Nurses, and the *Escuela Nacional de Enfermería y Obstetricia*, National School of Nursing and Obstetrics. Most large hospitals finance the training of their own nursing staff. Opportunities exist for enhanced training packages for the nursing profession, to be delivered through local institutions.

PARAMEDICS

Paramedical personnel are scarce and are generally considered to be inadequately trained. Paramedical training is provided by the *Cruz Roja*, Red Cross, *Emergencia SOS*, Emergencies SOS, the *Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM)*, and a few private hospitals; but there are no career programs for paramedics. Canadian firms interested in cooperative training programs will find opportunities in this field.

