



## INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION

Leading the advancement of professional interpreters

The **International Medical Interpreters Association** is committed to the advancement of professional medical interpreters as the best practice to equitable language access to health care for linguistically diverse patients. Founded in 1986, with over 1,900 members, the IMIA is the oldest and largest medical interpreter association. While representing medical interpreters as the primary experts in the field of medical interpreting, membership to the IMIA is open to all interested in medical interpreting and language access. We currently have a division of providers, language access administrators, physicians, and interpreter trainers. Policy makers, health care administrators, and others interested in medical and mental health interpreting are welcome to join us as associate or corporate members. The association structure includes a governing board of directors, and IMIA state representatives at the national level, and IMIA country representatives at the international level.

### **The IMIA is engaged in the following activities:**

- Leads and promotes national medical interpreter certification
- Promotes educational requirements and qualifications for medical interpreters
- Promotes all published medical interpreting standards of practice and norms of medical interpretation
- Provides technical assistance for the establishment of language access departments in medical institutions
- Acts as a clearinghouse of information about medical interpretation and language access
- Promotes and advises in research regarding cross-cultural communication in the healthcare setting
- Publishes monthly industry news brief, bulletins, notices, guides, and other publications
- Maintains membership in professional organizations in related fields such as AILIA, FIT, and HCFA
- Undertakes client education initiatives such as provider orientation on language access and working with interpreters, patient education initiatives such as ‘Know Your Rights’.
- Works actively with universities, foundations, government agencies, and other organizations in such matters as best practices, training and continuing education in medical interpreting
- Holds periodic meetings (Trainer’s Monthly Circle, Provider Meetings, Annual International Conference, bi-monthly Corporate Division meetings, Language Access Discussion Open Calls, monthly Consortium of Interpreter Associations meetings)

### **Member benefits include:**

- Advocacy at a national and international level for recognition and betterment of the medical interpreters
- Complimentary copy of the *Medical Interpreting Standards of Practice and other publications*
- Profile and search function in International Registry of Interpreters
- Email notifications of job and training opportunities
- Ample opportunities for networking
- Discount at Annual International Conference (second weekend of October – Columbus Day weekend)
- Participation in client education initiatives
- Monthly international news bulletin and website updates
- Trainer’s Circle - Monthly Conference Calls
- Provider Meetings on Language Access
- Corporate bimonthly conference calls
- Annual Job Fair
- Annual Salary Survey
- And more...