



AMERICA NEPAL MEDICAL FOUNDATION

120 Palencia Village Drive, Unit 105, Box 103
St. Augustine, FL 32095

Board of Directors

February 6, 2024

Binod Khadka, MD, MBA
President

Bhupesh Khadka, MD
Past President

Bishnu Sapkota, MD, FCCG
Vice-President

Narayan Neupane, MD, FCCP
Secretary

Navin Kaini, MD
Co-Secretary

Kalpana Shrestha
Treasurer

Bikash Bhattarai, MD

Dilli Bhurtel, MD, MRCPH

Marvin Brustin, JD

Raju B. Century, MD, FCCP

Ganesh Chaudhary, MD

Binod Dhungana, MD

Upendra Kaphle, MD

Saroj Kandel, MD

Jivan Lamichhane, MD

Subodh Mallik, MD

Shradha Manandhar, MBBS

Sandesh Pandit, MD, MBA

Vikas Pathak, MD

Suman Raj Regmi, MD

Birendra Sah, MD, FCCP

Santosh Sapkota, MBBS, MHA

Sunil Sharma MD, MPH

Julia Shepardson

Ananta Subedi, MD

Dinesh Subedi, MD

Anil Suwal, MD

Rachna Tiwari, MD

Swikrity U. Baskota, MD

Libby Wilson, MD

To:

Amy Buono, Director of USMLE Secretariat

Joe Knickrehm, Vice President of Communications

Re: USMLE Notification of Invalidated Exam Scores and its implication on Nepalese Medical Graduates pursuing career in the USA and currently practicing physicians in USA

Dear Sir/ Madam,

We are deeply concerned by the statement released by USMLE on Jan 31, 2024 regarding the above. We agree with you that it's extremely important to ensure appropriate steps are taken to uphold the integrity of the exam. We also agree that those who did wrong should be held accountable. However, we are concerned about naming and involving the entire nation of Nepal in the statement. We think this will tarnish the image of the country as a whole and will open an avenue for innocent applicants from the country to be victimized for years to come. This also creates undue psychological impact among thousands of licensed excellent practicing physicians in the US from Nepal who serve day and night to provide the best healthcare possible.

The implications extend beyond just the applicants; this will affect practicing physicians (in thousands currently) and their patients, many of whom have developed strong bonds and relationships built on trust and mutual respect. The potential long-term repercussions could significantly undermine the contributions of Nepali physicians to healthcare system in the USA and overall trust to healthcare system in general.

America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF) asks USMLE secretariat to revise or retract the statement immediately so that is not defamatory towards one country as the statement published on Jan 31, 2024 fosters an environment of collective discrimination, humiliation and punishment from any Nepali applicant. This can leave lasting negative impact towards the entire Nepali community here in the USA into future applicant cycles.

ANMF urges USMLE that those under review must be given due process and those who are not under investigations must not be barred from fair chances of being ranked and matched in the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Binod Khadka". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Binod Khadka, MD, MBA
President, ANMF

ANMF is a volunteer run 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to all its activities in the advancement of health care in Nepal since 1996. Since its inception, ANMF has supported over 300 projects of various kinds. It has supported basic healthcare needs in capacity building, research, and support of developing healthcare policy. You can see the details in the project map at www.anmf.org/projects. ANMF members comprise of US-based physicians of Nepalese and US origin, non-healthcare professionals, Nurse practitioners, Physician assistants and Nurses.