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Dear colleague,

You are a licensed physician who practices at a surgery, or you are employed with another institution where your work requires being a licensed physician. The medical student of Rostock University, Germany, who forwarded this letter to you is in his or her third semester (second year) of pre-clinical studies and would like to explore your field of work. He/she would like to serve his/her "Praktikum zur Berufsfelderkundung" (i.e. his/her mini-internship for exploring possible fields of work) with you.

What is "Berufsfelderkundung" and why do we ask our students to do this mini-internship?

The German term "Berufsfelderkundung" literally means exploration of a field of work. Since 1st of October in 1992, German medical students are being trained in accordance with German regulations regarding the licensing and registration of physicians as revised in their eighth amendment. Besides the attendance of several distinct lectures and successful completion of numerous courses and seminars, these regulations require students to carry out said "Praktikum zur Berufsfelderkundung". Under the German system, registration for the first part of examinations towards the licensing of physicians requires the student and aspiring physician to have explored one or more possible field(s) of work for a minimum of at least 15 hours. The student may serve his or her "Praktikum zur Berufsfelderkundung" anywhere in the world, provided that the requirements stated in the first paragraph above are met. The purpose of this short term internship is to ensure that students inform themselves about the variety of opportunities, work environments and specialist areas in which physicians can principally work after their studies.

We would be very obliged if you could kindly allow the student who forwarded this letter to you an insight into your interesting work as a physician and thus allow him or her to explore your field of work, your "Berufsfeld". Upon completion of the mini-internship, we would like to ask you to fill in and sign the enclosed certificate, and to also mark it with your (or your institution's) official stamp or seal. Please indicate the duration of the student's mini-internship. The student needs to furnish us with proof of a total of 15 hours of "Berufsfelderkundung". The student may choose to serve all of this time with you, but we are also happy for the student to explore several different institutions/surgeries.

The student is asked to write a report about his exploration of your field of work, documenting his personal impressions and insights gathered in connection with the medical work he will have observed. When you fill in the certificate, please indicate whether you would like to receive a copy of this report. We are happy to send you a copy if desired.

To mention three very important formalities: During their mini-internships, our students are legally bound to uphold professional discretion as they become privy to confidential patient/physician communication. Insurance-wise this mini-internship is equivalent to a university field-trip (and thus covered). All mini-internships need to be completed by the **24th of March 2023**. Should you have any questions regarding this mini-internship or regarding the student's visit, please do not hesitate to telephone or mail me personally.

The "Ärzttekammer Mecklenburg-Vorpommern" (the medical association of the German federal state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) also supports this request.

We fully understand that supervising a student might be time consuming, and that in doing so you are contributing time and effort -- this is why we are all the more appreciative of your readiness to allow prospective physicians an insight into the variety of medical work.

Yours faithfully,

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