

MEDICC Reaffirms its Cooperation with Cuba's Health Professionals



Recent headlines about Cuba have understandably raised questions and concerns among many of our partners, colleagues and supporters. As an organization with 28 years' experience fostering respectful mutual learning and collaboration between U.S. and Cuban health professionals, we hope to offer you more clarity and context. Our assessments are based on persistent, real-time communication with our Cuban colleagues, who continue their essential work despite ongoing challenges.

Cuba undoubtedly faces serious difficulties, including the economic and social impact on Cuban families of severe energy shortages and related resource constraints, aggravated by recent ramped-up U.S. economic pressures topping over sixty years of U.S. sanctions. Cubans in the health sector adapt, as they have for decades, prioritizing essential care, vital research and education. Thus, top on today's agenda for them is ensuring primary health care services, women's and children's health, continuity of care for cancer patients, and support for medical sciences schools. Research continues into conditions affecting older adults, such as Alzheimer's, and to treat and prevent infectious diseases. We see serious efforts enhancing resilience in the health workforce, communities working together and Cuban partners who continue to welcome collaboration.

In this context, MEDICC is committed to move ahead with our programs and our cooperation, and we invite you to join us.

MEDICC's Gateways Program provides lawful opportunities to health and related professionals for travel to Cuba. Such firsthand experiences and interactions offer unique possibilities to deepen research and gain mutual insights for improving health in both our countries. U.S. government travel regulations authorizing such travel remain in place, and MEDICC's programs are fully compliant with these guidelines. Our legal team and travel agency partners advise us of any new legal or logistical hurdles that may pose difficulties for our travelers, whose wellbeing is our priority.

As Cuban health professionals, researchers, scientists, community leaders and medical educators strive to maintain and improve health outcomes under extraordinarily difficult conditions, MEDICC commits to collaboration for health that we believe is not only appropriate, but also essential to support greater access to quality care, build community-engaged health systems and advance shared public health goals across our borders.

