



# California Medical Association

*Physicians dedicated to the health of Californians*

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October 22, 2007

Mr. Stephen McPherson  
President  
ABC Entertainment  
500 South Buena Vista Street  
Burbank, CA 91521-4551

Dear Mr. McPherson,

On behalf of the 35,000 physician members of the California Medical Association, I would like you to know that we are very offended by the derogatory comment aimed at physicians who have trained in medical schools in the Philippines. The offensive comment made by Teri Hatcher's character aired on ABC's *Desperate Housewives* is an embarrassment to all Americans. The comments reflect particular insensitivity towards physicians who gained their medical education in the Philippines and other international medical graduates who treat American patients.

Close to 25% of all practicing physicians in the United States and in California earned their medical degrees in other countries. These international medical graduates go through rigorous credentialing procedures and additional residency training to gain license to practice in the U.S. Indeed, international medical graduates have frequently been leaders in research and clinical practice in this country. The generalization that physicians trained in the Philippines and practicing in the U.S. are somehow inferior in their training is inaccurate, unfair and unfounded.

There is a large population of Filipino Americans involved in multiple aspects of our state's medical system, not only as physicians, but also as nurses and other health care professionals. We believe that your network needs to offer an apology for the insensitive slur to these Filipino professionals.

Furthermore as an international medical graduate myself, I am personally offended by the content of your program and would suggest that you also consider sensitivity training of your script writers, directors and producers and show foreign trained physicians in a better and more realistic light in future programming.

I look forward to a response from you.

Sincerely,

Anmol S. Mahal, MD  
President

cc: Ronald Davis, MD, President, American Medical Association  
Edward Langston, MD, Board Chair, American Medical Association  
Gamini Soori, MD, Chair, AMA International Medical Graduates Section  
Michael Maves, MD, AMA Executive Vice-President  
Randal Pham, MD, Chair, CMA Ethnic Medical Organization Section  
Frank Staggers, MD, Board Chair, CMA Foundation  
Carol Lee, President and CEO, CMA Foundation  
CMA Executive Committee  
Joseph Dunn, CMA Executive Vice-President