Preface

This book addresses the mobility of medical doctors in the Mediterranean region from the perspective of the new economics of skilled labor migration by suggesting a cooperative framework between Northern and Southern economies of the Mediterranean region. A major focus is placed on the likely benefits that can take place from medical education and research under a more coordinated cooperative framework. The regional and national contexts for the empirical applications pursued are based on Mediterranean countries with a focus on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Arab economies, and on Eastern and Central European Economies (ECE).

In order to ensure a smooth transition within this book, the first chapters introduce the issues related to human resources in health and the frameworks focusing on the new economics of mobility of skilled labor. The first section is devoted to the problem statement, the economics of the workforce in health, the new economic models, and the mobility of students. This is followed by a second section covering applications of the new economic models to the EU, MENA, and ECE. The third section focuses on the cooperative model and its applications to the context of Morocco with the introduction of frameworks and directions for the implementation of the cooperative model.

The development and publication of this book is motivated by the increasing need for North-South policies that include mobility of medical doctors and provide incentives for movements between developed and developing economies. This type of research is in conformity with the international and regional trends pursued internationally for the attainment of a more global health system.

Besides these goals, the book encourages and supports junior researchers that have been instrumental in different stages of the initial research. Different junior and senior researchers that are pursuing their career with the objective of attaining a Ph.D. are not only cited but are recognized as full authors and co-authors in this book. Of course, their contributions are under the supervision of more senior researchers.

POTENTIAL USERS OF THIS BOOK

Based on the above motivations and the questions addressed, it appears that different types of users could be attracted by the content of this book.

Besides universities and research centers, public, private, and nongovernmental agencies can find helpful elements and issues in this book. In relation to the material covered, medical doctors and scientists operating in education, research, and planning are targeted as potential users of this book. Medical and business students and other scholars willing to investigate the frontiers of their own fields are also seen as potential users of this book. Quantitatively oriented scholars and students and those that require
more qualitative arguments may find promising pieces, methods, and empirical evidence in the present publication. The empirical content of each chapter and of the overall book is also attractive for policy makers at both national and international levels. General and university libraries may acquire copies for their readers and users. While countries in the South Mediterranean region, MENA, and ECE are specifically targeted, other economies could be interested acquiring copies of this book. This is also an interesting addition to the knowledge base about Arab countries, even though this is not fully explicit from the book title.

I do also recognize the need for such book at the level of the FEMISE network and its 80 institutes and research centers that have been generating a climate of scholarship and devotion to theoretical and applied questions that concern the Mediterranean area. Besides FEMISE, the Economic Research Forum (ERF), as it pursues complementary objectives and tasks, may identify the pertinence of this book.

I identify on the same occasion, a series of universities in the Mediterranean region and outside it where students and faculty are on a daily basis struggling to acquire resources to forward the frontier of knowledge. International organizations as they are devoting efforts to promote research and development in different areas with a focus on human development, health, education, and socio-economic conditions may find this book useful. These include organizations related to the United Nations in the areas of health, education, and development, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the World Bank. As nongovernmental agencies both at national and international levels are largely introduced in a series of the book chapters, they are also identified as major users that would benefit from the access to the present book. The large numbers of organizations that are struggling on issues related to migration are also seen as important users of this book.

GENESIS OF THIS BOOK

As said earlier, there are trends in science and in development practices that push towards re-considering the brain-drain and brain-gain debate. This requires the mobilization of different disciplines. While the field of development economics is the main driver of this book, other disciplines are also mobilized. When convergence imposes itself to a specific discipline and to a narrower area of knowledge, it often creates needs for investigations at the boundaries of the domain, generating interference with different scientific areas. These multidisciplinary approaches have been promoted by medical doctors and social scientists when dealing with access to health, to inequities in access, provision of medical care, and in other areas.

The current book is generated in relation to the development of scientific convergence, to interdependencies and the academic tradition of multidisciplinary as described in this short introduction.

The genesis of this book relates initially to a research proposal submitted for financial support to the FEMISE (foundation of Euro-Mediterranean Institutes of Economic Sciences). The core team emphasizes the roles of the migration of medical doctors in healthcare and related services. It underlines the new economics of skilled labor mobility and focuses on the roles played by medical education and research. This has led to the production of a scientific FEMISE report FEM-34-07 released in 2012 (one year ago).

These efforts have been pursued by the placement of a request to FEMISE to produce a book under “FEMISE Edited Volumes.” The agreement was finally attained but without any financial support from FEMISE. After discussion with IGI, a contract was established for the production and diffusion of the
current book that accounts partially for the content developed in FEM-34-07. More chapters were added to ensure that the reader knows all the background information before getting to the discussion of the win-win framework and the open mobility of medical doctors.

**SCOPE OF THE BOOK**

The present book focuses on migration of medical doctors in the context of the Mediterranean region and mainly from the perspectives of MENA and ECE countries to the EU. It uses an approach based on the tradition of the new economics of skilled labor migration with the role of medical education and research as sectors that capture the external effects of migrations of skilled labor. This direction is taken as the source of discussing the collaboration between North and South in addressing education and research issues as skills from both North and South are needed. The main feature emphasized in this book relates to viewing skilled labor migration as means for generating win-win collaboration. As medical doctors are the central players in this book, medical education and research are invited to constitute the essential pillar of the North-South mobility of medical doctors.

These latter issues are introduced in sections 2 and 3 of the present book. Section 1 is devoted to introducing the major trends governing health and human resources and the economic models used in analyzing migration of skilled labor.

**LIMITATIONS OF THE BOOK**

The major limitation relates to the absence of a survey focusing on medical doctors that are outside the countries of emigration. This survey would have helped complete the perceptions of medical doctors about the likelihood of the new directions of cooperation between North and South. However, the likely negative impact from this limitation has been considered in the types of questions addressed to medical doctors that are operating in Morocco.

**STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE BOOK**

The book is organized in three interdependent sections:

- **Section 1:** “Skilled Labor Migration and Human Resources in Health”
- **Section 2:** “Migration of Medical Doctors to EU from MENA and ECE”
- **Section 3:** “Global Health Systems and Cooperation”

These three sections are interdependent and devoted to guiding the reader through the book chapters. The first section sets the grounds for the importance of human resources in health with a focus on the deficits of medical doctors and insistence on the new economics of skilled labor migration where both doctors trained in the countries of origin and those trained in the destination countries are migrating. This section is composed of four chapters that prepare for the second section of the book. In this second section, the focus is placed on the descriptive analyses and the application of the model of the new
economics of skilled labor migration to the European Union, MENA, and ECE economies. This section is composed of seven chapters that form the major core of the book. Finally, the last section with four chapters is devoted to showing the importance of cooperation through the promotion of North-South framework of cooperation based on medical education and research. The case of Morocco as an example of MENA countries is discussed, and a survey about the perceptions of medical doctors practicing in Morocco is analyzed. An overall cooperative framework is then introduced.

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