

Newsletter

Words of Wisdom Challenges and Opportunities

After 12 years of being involved in the administration of the Société Internationale d'Urologie (SIU) and before leaving office into the hands of my able successor, I take the time to reflect on the past and look toward the future.

I will begin by saying that we are today a much stronger and financially secure organization, that is well respected worldwide. This is in great part due to the com-



Prof. Mostafa Elhilali

mitment and tireless volunteer work of dedicated members who gave their time and foresight to help us get where we are today. Since its inception in 1994, the Board of Chairmen (BOC) has guided our Society, which was founded in 1907, into the new millennium. On behalf of every member of the SIU, I raise my hat and thank them from the bottom of my heart. I am confident that the very well balanced current Board will continue the tradition.

Our Society is also blessed with a group of very talented individuals who are the unknown soldiers doing most of the hard work to address the constant demand for more services, and providing them with a smile. I guess every one knows that I mean the staff of our Central Office under the leadership of Martine Coutu.

Our large numbers of trainees and fellows, as well as the training centres that provided such a great teaching expe-

rience for these fortunate and well-motivated young urologists, are witnesses of our success in achieving our major goal of improving the quality of urological care in many countries where this had not been possible.

The past has been very challenging, with the move of the SIU to Montreal and the need to build an infrastructure to meet our needs. We have grown from a small office graciously provided by the Roy-

al Victoria Hospital and two part-time staff, to a large downtown office with ten staff members. They cover the different tasks related to such an organization, including membership services, accounting, public relations, as well as all that is needed to run our meetings both scientifically and technically.

Annual Meetings

Previously, these meetings were held every three years, with plenty of time to organize them. Then the rhythm switched to every two years and, after Berlin in 2011, we will have a meeting every year. Needless to say that the workload has tripled, with a growing demand for services, shrinking Industry support for major meetings, and stricter government rules and regulations. This makes it imperative that we think outside the box

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Contributions for publication in future SIU Newsletters can be sent to Prof. Chris Heyns, Chairman of the Publications Committee (cfh2@sun.ac.za) or to Martine Coutu at the SIU Central Office (martine.coutu@siu-urology.org)

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and be imaginative. We are now among the major league players, and we must rise to the challenge.

When we organize annual meetings, we need to develop the details of several meetings simultaneously in order to keep up with all the arrangements. This demands a larger commitment of our Local Organizing Committees to address all the details and particularities in each host country. The tradition of only involving our National Delegate will have to be widened to include the local national organization with its infrastructure to facilitate the process and provide the best local contacts.

Our National Delegates will always remain our national representatives. This underscores the need to have a cordial and friendly relationship between the SIU sections and their national organizations. The roles are different and should be kept separate, hence the logic behind the bylaw change: to better control the use of our logo in order to remove any local concern that we are creating parallel societies. We have to underline the fact that we have no interest in national or regional issues, but rather the global, international arena, with particular commitments in parts of the forgotten world where resources are very limited.

Our Society is not and should not be involved in local politics, regulatory affairs or reimbursement issues, nor are we interested in being part of personal disputes or issues related to control of medical associations. Our main responsibility - which we have lived up to - is to promote training opportunities which ultimately reflect on the quality of urologic care provided in these areas.

Increasing Demands

Among the challenges we face is the sheer volume of work required of our

elected officials as well as our Central Office staff. The three most demanding jobs are those of the General Secretary, the chairman of the Congress Organizing Committee, and the chairman of the Scientific Committee. These positions must meet ever-increasing demands in order to organize more than one meeting at a time, while at the same time addressing the general needs of our members.



Martine Coutu

We felt that it was not reasonable to expect that one person in each committee should carry the ball alone. This is why we are proposing a bylaw change to add an adjunct elected by the General Assembly to support each of these functions. These elected adjunct chairmen would also maintain continuity and provide for a smoother transition at the end of the principals' terms. This obviously is not a given, but based on their performance and productivity, they might show interest in moving up to become chairmen if the Nominating Committee and the General Assembly see fit. Many large societies such as ours are doing the same. These bylaw changes will be presented for discussion and ratification at the General Assembly on November 4 at our Congress in Shanghai.

Another aspect of the challenge is the volume of work expected of the Central Office at the same time as controlling expenses in the face of reduced funds available from Industry. This is not an easy task, but it needs to be done. A blueprint for all the steps required to divide the workload between the Central Office, the Local Organizing Committees and the local Professional Congress Organizer (PCO) is being developed by the Executive.

The previous practice of having a President for the 3-year period between congresses requires revision now that our congresses will take place every year. This necessitates the introduction of a new position of a Vice-president who automatically becomes President-elect and then President. This is very important to familiarize the elected Vice-president with the roles and function of the BOC before becoming President-elect. This

will also eliminate the need for selecting a President from only previous members of the BOC, and hence offering the opportunity for any member to become a candidate for President. This is one of the bylaw changes that will be proposed for discussion and ratification at the General Assembly meeting in Shanghai in November.

Strengthen Our Society

I believe that all these challenges will result in great opportunities for us to strengthen our Society from the grass roots up, as we need the participation of all our members. Our infrastructure will evolve and become stronger, and our top officials will lead us to new heights in our quest to remain competitive and focused on our mission.

There is no doubt in my mind that we will live up to those challenges and use every opportunity to move full speed ahead. I enjoyed working for the SIU all these years and will continue to support its goals for many years to come. ■

Prof. Mostafa Elhilali, Montreal, Canada
SIU President



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Exciting Presentations, Spectacular Locations

SIU Congress – Shanghai, November 1-5

As we approach the Congress dates, we are delighted to report that we are now putting the finishing touches to what we believe will be a tremendous educational programme. Dr. Richard D. Williams, SIU Scientific Chair, and Prof. Zhang-Qun Ye, our Shanghai Scientific Co-chair, have dedicated much of their time to building and fine-tuning the educational programme. We are very grateful for their leadership and support.

Over the course of four days, we will be presenting a wide spectrum of topics in Urology that are representative of suggestions culled both from our international advisors and from SIU members. Joining us this year in Shanghai are over 150 faculty members from around the world: experts recognized for their academic achievements and their commitment to education.

It is not an easy task to select topics for such a large meeting, as it is all too easy to dilute the content in an effort to be inclusive. The Scientific Programme Committee is confident that you will find the selections stimulating, thought-provoking and, perhaps most importantly, that they will prove useful to your everyday practice.

Among the highlights are the morning plenary sessions featuring the state-of-the-art presentations on treatment of localized and advanced prostate cancer; a comprehensive overview of men's sexual health; a special panel on challenging cases in bladder cancer management; an in-depth look at testis



Dr. Jerome Richie

cancer, featuring the report of the ICUD Consultation on Testis Cancer led by Dr. Jerome Richie; and a very exciting plenary session on cutting-edge topics in minimally invasive surgery.

We will also be presenting a dozen parallel plenaries that will provide fresh international perspectives on the overactive bladder, various Urological cancers, prostatic

obstruction, renal transplantation, the infertile male, training and education in Urology, stone disease, infections and inflammations, and a global panel on the Urological health care needs of aging populations.

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Future Congresses and Meetings

2009 Shanghai

2010 Marrakech

2011 Berlin

2012 Asia-Pacific

2013 Vancouver

www.siucongress.org

MARRAKECH 2010

SIU World Meeting Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction

October 13-16, 2010

Marrakech, Morocco, Mansour Eddahbi Palais des Congrès

featuring the
**ICUD Consultation
on Urethral Strictures**



www.siucongress.org

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During the morning plenaries, we are also honoured by the presence of colleagues named by their respective Urological associations to represent them during our meeting. We are pleased to welcome Dr.



Prof. Mohamed Eissa

Jerome Richie for the American Urological Association, Prof. Fritz Schröder for the European Urological Association, Prof. Mohamed Eissa for the Pan-African Urological Surgeons' Association, Prof. Xu Zhang for the Urological Association of Asia, and Dr. René Sotelo for the Confederación Americana de Urología.

Our abstract submissions this year actually matched the record number that we received for the 1997 Congress in Montreal, and the Scientific Committee wishes to thank our international board of reviewers for their time in evaluating these abstracts.

In addition to the SIU Congress Programme and immediately preceding it (October 31–November 1), we once again are pleased to welcome the World Federation of Urological Oncology, that will hold a 1.5-day meeting featuring cutting-edge international topics in uro-oncology, presented by a faculty of over 30 world-class experts. We thank Dr. Laurence Klotz for his dedication to the WUOF and its continuing collaboration with the SIU.

We are also honoured to welcome the subspecialty societies that will be joining us on Sunday, November 1: the Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgeons' Society, the Endourological Society, and the International Society for Sexual Medicine. Their symposia are open to all registered SIU attendees at no extra charge.



Prof. Paul Abrams

We are also indebted to our friend and colleague, Prof.

Paul Abrams, for his hard work in planning the early-morning Instructional Course series. A total of 14 courses are on offer for a nominal fee of \$30 US (tickets can be pre-purchased online).

The all-day live operative surgery course, organized by Local Organizing Chairman Prof. Yinghao Sun and SIU Subspecialties Chairman Dr. Mahesh Desai, proposes an exciting programme that we feel will be of great interest to attendees. To allow the greatest number of people to attend, this Instructional Course will be free of charge for all registered participants.

On Tuesday, November 3 at lunchtime, join Prof. John M. Fitzpatrick as he chairs a special workshop for trainees and consultants wanting to know more about how to optimize writing a paper for publication in an academic journal.

We would also like to remind the SIU National Delegates from all countries that the National Delegates' meeting will take place as usual on Sunday, November 1, from 10:00 to 12:30.



Prof. Yinghao Sun

The role of the National Delegates is an important one within the SIU, and as the Congress is the only opportunity for all of them to meet, we urge everyone coming to the Shanghai Congress to attend.

To offset our intensive daytime schedule, our local hosts, led by Profs. Yinghao Sun and Yanqun Na, have prepared a delightful social programme that has been months in the planning. On Sunday evening, we begin at the Shanghai International Convention Centre with the traditional Opening Ceremonies and entertainment, followed by the Welcome Reception in the Exhibit Hall.

On Monday evening, the ever-popular SIU Night is guaranteed to please. Located

at Century Square in Pudong New Area, the 68,000-square meter Shanghai Science and Technology Museum is the biggest and most high-tech science museum in Shanghai, and the venue for the SIU Night. The Museum rises in a spiral, symbolizing scientific advancement, while



Congress attendees will enjoy the magnificent architecture of Shanghai

the huge glass sphere embedded in a pool of clear water at the building's midpoint, illustrates the theme of life renewed. A variety of dishes from several regions of China will be served buffet-station style, for a casual and relaxing evening.

A free evening on Tuesday night gives you the opportunity to explore Shanghai on your own or experience one of three unique activities, all with English-speaking guides. The ERA show is an acrobatic masterpiece. Not only will you be amazed by the acrobats' control and precision, you will be enchanted by the world that is created through the use of multimedia, technology, lighting and sound effects, elaborate costumes, original live music and much more.

The Huangpu River Cruise is perhaps one of the best ways to see Shanghai. After dinner, you will enjoy the magnificent architecture lighting up the night sky, and you are in the perfect position to enjoy the display while cruising down the river. Sailing under the futuristic Yangpu Bridge is definitely one of the tour's highlights!

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The last option is a visit to the Shanghai World Financial Center and the Xin Tian Di district. Take the famous 66-second trip up the Shanghai World Financial Center and enjoy a truly breathtaking view from the apex of Shanghai. The SWFC is an astounding 474m high and offers a bird's-eye view of the city. Afterwards, stroll through Xin Tian Di, a vibrant entertainment and retail district set in a network of antique structures and authentic design.

Transportation will be provided from the Shanghai International Convention Centre starting approximately half an hour prior to activity start time. Return transportation will take delegates back to their respective SIU hotels immediate-

ly following the activities. Delegates not staying at SIU-appointed hotels will be responsible for their own return transportation.



The Huangpu River Cruise is one of the best ways to see Shanghai.

Finally, on Wednesday evening we will enjoy the SIU Gala Banquet at the Sky Ballroom of the Grand Theatre. The stunning Shanghai Grand Theatre is located in the People's Square in the Huangpu district of Shanghai, and is ten stories high. Officially opened in August 2008, the "new

style" design is the work of French architect Jean-Marie Charpentier, who matched traditional styles to new-age sensibilities. The structure is especially spectacular at night, when the light reflecting off the bowl-shaped roof causes the entire building to shine like a precious gem. It is a striking backdrop for the lavish, multicourse Chinese banquet to follow.

As these few observations will hopefully have shown, there will be no dearth of things to see and do while in Shanghai, not to mention the practically limitless touring opportunities offered by this

vast and fascinating country.

If you have not yet decided to attend, now is the time! We hope to see you there. ■

Valérie Guillet
Scientific Programme Office

Congress Programme Highlights

SIU 30th World Congress, Shanghai, November 1-5

In this article we highlight some of the topics and speakers at the 30th Congress of the SIU which will take place in Shanghai, 1-5 November 2009. The programme includes an extremely large faculty of eminent and internationally renowned speakers, and in the short space of this article it is, of course, impossible to mention all the interesting topics and speakers. However, full information about the scientific programme, registration, housing, social events and tours can be found on the Congress website: www.siucongress.org/siu2009

Monday, November 2: Prof. Michael Marberger (Austria) will moderate a plenary session on Prostate Cancer, dealing with topics such as pathologic predictors of small volume disease (Isabell Sesterhenn, USA),



Prof. Michael Marberger



Dr. Mahesh Desai

focal therapies such as cryoablation (Thomas Polascik, USA), HIFU (Joseph Chin, Canada), and brachytherapy (Fang Jian Zhou, China).

Monday, November 2: Dr. Mahesh Desai (India) will moderate a plenary session on Transplantation, dealing with issues such as transplantation in developing countries (Francis Delmonico, USA),

commercialization of organ donation (Nasser Simforoosh, Iran), and laparoscopic donor nephrectomy (Remigio Vela Navarrete, Spain).

Monday, November 2: Prof. Curtis Pettaway will give a talk on the multimodality approach to locally advanced penile cancer as part of a plenary session moderated by Arturo Mendoza-Valdes (Mexico). Antonio Pompeo (Brazil) will report on the 2008 International Consultation on Penile



Prof. Curtis Pettaway

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Cancer. Other topics include prognostic factors (Wassim Kassouf, Canada) and reconstructive surgery for penile cancer (Steven Brandes, USA).

Monday, November 2: Dr. Yves Fradet (Canada) will chair a special panel on challenging cases in bladder cancer management, with participation by Urs Studer (Switzerland), Co-ra Sternberg (Italy), Ashish Kamat (USA), Michael Droller (USA) and Bernard Bochner (USA).



Dr. Yves Fradet

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Tuesday, November 3: Prof. Michael Jewett (Canada) will talk on active surveillance of small renal masses in a plenary session on Kidney Cancer moderated by Prof. Simon Tanguay (Canada). Other topics include molecular genetics of renal cancer (Bin Tean Te, USA), HIFU versus cryotherapy (Brunolf Lagerfeld, Netherlands), and open versus laparoscopic partial nephrectomy (Hendrik van Poppel, Belgium, and Gyung Tak Sung, Korea). Targeted therapy and cytoreductive nephrectomy will be discussed by Kesavan Esuvaranathan (Singapore).



Prof. Michael Jewett



Prof. Hendrik van Poppel

Other topics include molecular genetics of renal cancer (Bin Tean Te, USA), HIFU versus cryotherapy (Brunolf Lagerfeld, Netherlands), and open versus laparoscopic partial nephrectomy (Hendrik van Poppel, Belgium, and Gyung Tak Sung, Korea). Targeted therapy and cytoreductive nephrectomy will be discussed by Kesavan Esuvaranathan (Singapore).

Tuesday, November 3: Prof. Catherine de Vries (USA) will moderate a Pediatric Urology plenary



Prof. Catherine deVries

session on the Neurogenic Bladder, with participation by Prof. Christopher Woodhouse (UK) and Dr. Martin Koyle (USA).

Wednesday, November 4: One of the greatest pioneers of bladder cancer surgery and neobladder construction, Prof. Mohamed Ghoneim (Egypt), will participate in a plenary session on Bladder Cancer moderated by Dr. Reynaldo Gomez (Chile). Other participants include Urs Studer (Switzerland), Petrisor Geavlete (Romania), Yves Fradet (Canada) and Aarón Torres Garcia (Mexico).



Prof. Mohamed Ghoneim



Prof. Urs Studer



Prof. Andreas Gross

with participation by Drs. Henry Ho (Singapore) and Mihir Desai (USA). Prof. Andreas Gross will also moderate a plenary session on Stones, dealing with topics such as delivering effective ESWL (David Tolley, UK), expulsive therapy (SK Pal, India), medical workup (Jorge Gutiérrez, Mexico) and indications for open stone surgery (Ismail Khalaf, Egypt).



Prof. Tsuneharu Miki

Wednesday, November 4: Among the many educational activities, there will be Instructional Courses on Pediatric Urology, Problems in Female Urology, Penile Cancer and Flexible Ureteroscopy. Prof. Andreas Gross (Germany) will lead the course on Advances in Flexible Ureteroscopy. Prof. Laurence Klotz (Canada). Prof. Umbas will take part in a Forum on Prostate Cancer Screening in Non-Western Countries, with participation by, among many others, Fritz Schröder (Netherlands), David Gillett (UK), Chuyen Vu Le (Vietnam), Chris Cheng (Singapore), Dalin He (China) and E. Oluwabunmi Olapade-Olaopa (Nigeria). Other internationally renowned speakers on the WUOF programme include Mohamed Ghoneim (Egypt), James Eastham (USA), Joachim Thüroff (Germany), Gerald Andriole (USA) and Badrinath Konety (USA), to name but a few.

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Thursday November 5: Prof. Serigne Gueye (Senegal) will deliver a talk on neglected tropical diseases, in a session on Infections and Inflammation in Urology, with J. Curtis Nickel (Canada) as moderator. Other panel members include Kurt Naber (Germany), Krishna Sasidharan (India) and Stephen Watya (Uganda). **Saturday, October 31:** Prof. Rainy Umbas (Indonesia) will be one of the many internationally recognized experts participating in the 4th Conference of the World Urological Oncology Federation, chaired by Laurence Klotz (Canada). Prof. Umbas will take part in a Forum on Prostate Cancer Screening in Non-Western Countries, with participation by, among many others, Fritz Schröder (Netherlands), David Gillett (UK), Chuyen Vu Le (Vietnam), Chris Cheng (Singapore), Dalin He (China) and E. Oluwabunmi Olapade-Olaopa (Nigeria). Other internationally renowned speakers on the WUOF programme include Mohamed Ghoneim (Egypt), James Eastham (USA), Joachim Thüroff (Germany), Gerald Andriole (USA) and Badrinath Konety (USA), to name but a few.

Thursday November 5: Prof. Tsuneharu Miki (Japan) will participate in a plenary session on Minimally Invasive Surgery moderated by Claude Abbou (France). The topics include the Cyberknife (Lee Ponsky, USA), LESS (Mihir Desai, USA), long-term outcomes (Hassan Abol-Enein, Egypt, J. Edson Pontes, USA, Lance Coetzee, South Africa, and Manfred Wirth, Germany).

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Prof. Laurence Klotz

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A Network of Knowledge

Report on the SIU Training Scholarship Programme

One of the major tasks of the SIU is the development, education and training of urologists. Among the committees of the Board of Chairmen (BOC) of the SIU is the Institutes and Scholarships Committee.

The SIU Training Scholarship programme started in 1998. Currently, we receive 25 to 30 applications annually for urological training from all over the world. Most of these applications come from the developing world, especially from Africa, Asia and South America.

Information about the SIU Training Scholarship programme and details about the application process are available on the SIU website at www.siu-urology.org.

So far the SIU has 24 officially accredited Training Institutes which host SIU Scholarship programmes in 13 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Germany, India, Japan, Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, and the United Kingdom).

The criteria for awarding an SIU Training Scholarship include that the trainee should be less than 35 years old, and the candidate must apply for urologic training which would make a significant contribution to urologic service delivery in his home country. It is preferable for the applicant to be affiliated to a university or government medical facility. Motivation, energy, enthusiasm and vision are important.

The underlying philosophy is that the greatest cost-benefit ratio can be achieved if candidates with general



Prof. Hassan Abol-Enein



Prof. Joachim W. Thüroff, the previous Chairman of the Institutes and Scholarships Committee

surgical or basic urological training and experience are offered an opportunity to acquire basic or advanced urological skills which they will be able to incorporate into their practice upon returning to their home country.

Applicants are encouraged to select an accredited SIU Training Institute in their own geographical region. The reasons for this are to maximize the benefit of travel and accommodation costs, to ensure that the patient profile at the training institute is relevant to the trainee's country of origin, and to permit attainable levels of technology transfer to the trainee's eventual work environment.

However, this guideline is not absolutely rigid, and flexibility makes provision on the one hand for candidates with general surgery training who wish to gain basic urological skills, and on the other hand for applicants with general urological training who want to gain experience using more advanced technology or even to acquire subspecialty urological skills.

Acceptance from an accredited Training Institute selected by the candidate is required to ensure the availability of a training slot for the applicant. SIU Scholarship offers the candidate \$5000 USD for six months. Traditionally, the Scholarship Office will direct the candidate to a Training Institute in his own geographic region. Recently it was

envisaged to increase the amount of funding to \$6000 USD to make provision for expenditures undertaken by the Training Institute.

Expansion of the Training Scholarship programme is a high priority on the SIU agenda, and increasing the number of accredited training centres is an important prerequisite for expansion. SIU members involved in urological training and education who would like to accommodate SIU scholars are invited to apply for SIU accreditation of their institution. Details about application for SIU Training Institute accreditation can be found on the SIU website at www.siu-urology.org

Both the SIU scholar and the Training Institute are requested to provide the SIU Central Office with a final report as well as an evaluation questionnaire on the candidate's experiences in the training programme. This information is evaluated in order to continually adapt and improve the Scholarship programme.

At the beginning of 2009, Dr. Eric Klein, editor of the SIU official journal, *Urology*, generously agreed to publish the SIU Scholarship reports. Several of these reports have subsequently appeared in a prominent position in *Urology*, together with a photograph and abbreviated curriculum vitae of the SIU scholar, thus giving SIU members valuable insight into the training experience of these candidates.

The number of SIU Scholarships awarded per year is shown in Table 1. In 2009, a total of 29 applications were received from 13 countries, and 19 Scholarships were awarded, representing candidates from 11 countries.

The countries of origin of the 133 successful applicants for SIU Scholarships awarded in the period 2002 to 2009 are shown in Table 2. Most of the SIU scholars came from Africa, the Middle East and Asia - in total from more than 38 different countries.

| Year | Number |
|--------------|------------|
| 1998 | 5 |
| 1999 | 5 |
| 2000 | 7 |
| 2001 | 10 |
| 2002 | 13 |
| 2003 | 13 |
| 2004 | 15 |
| 2005 | 26 |
| 2006 | 16 |
| 2007 | 16 |
| 2008 | 15 |
| 2009 | 19 |
| Total | 160 |

Number of SIU Training Scholarships awarded 1998 to 2009

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The geographical location of the accredited SIU Training Institutes where the SIU scholars were accepted for training is shown in Table 3. Most of the scholars undertook training at centres in the Middle East, mainly in Egypt. The

leading institution by far was the Mansoura Urology and Nephrology Center, where 33% of the SIU scholars in the period 2002 to 2009 underwent their training.

The feedback questionnaires received from SIU scholars showed that the great majority were satisfied with

the outcome of the training process (Table 4).

The most important areas of improved knowledge were endourology, laparoscopy, uro-oncology, interventional radiology, PCNL, transplantation, pediatric urology and andrology.

Among the other benefits reported in the feedback comments was that the SIU scholars had acquired new relationships and established new friendships. Other advantages included networking with other countries and exposure to different cultures and languages.

They acquired more skills in teaching, presenting cases, discussion and interaction during scientific meetings. The trainees were exposed to a wider spectrum of urologic diseases, such as pediatric congenital anomalies. Furthermore, many were able to write papers and submit manuscripts to journals.

On the other hand, many scholars asked to prolong the training period to one year, and some wanted to increase the budget to more than \$5000 USD. Others requested to have complimentary registration for the SIU congresses and free membership as well.

Recently, the Department of Urology at the University of California San Francisco offered a UCSF-SIU Research Fellowship. This award is intended for a fully-trained Urologist from Africa to do research for one year in a medical laboratory of the University of California in San Francisco to prepare the candidate for an academic career in his or her home country. This fellowship carries a stipend of \$ 50,000 USD.

So far, the SIU has received nine applications, and two fellowships were awarded for 2009 and 2010. The SIU greatly appreciates the grant from UCSF and is especially thankful to Profs. Emil Tanagho, Peter Carroll and Tom Lue for their help to SIU Research Fellows.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the SIU Central Office and all other co-workers for their endless efforts in the large amount of administrative work that is required to ensure a smooth running SIU Training Scholarship programme. ■

Prof. Hassan Abol-Enein, Mansoura, Egypt
Chairman, Institutes and Scholarships Committee

| | | | |
|----------|----|-----------|----|
| Nigeria | 22 | Syria | 4 |
| Iraq | 14 | Ethiopia | 3 |
| India | 13 | China | 4 |
| Kenya | 14 | Yemen | 4 |
| Egypt | 10 | Morocco | 2 |
| Zambia | 5 | Senegal | 2 |
| Sudan | 5 | Palestine | 2 |
| Pakistan | 4 | Others* | 25 |

* Each has one fellow: (Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran, Ivory Coast (2 scholars), Jordan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Nepal, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, USA, Venezuela, Zimbabwe).

Table 2: Home countries of SIU Training Scholarship recipients (2002-2009, 133 scholars)

| Country | No. | % |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| Egypt (4 institutes) | 60* | 44 |
| India | 22 | 17 |
| USA | 10 | 8 |
| South Africa | 9 | 6 |
| Tanzania | 6 | 5 |
| Singapore | 6 | 5 |
| Germany | 5 | 4 |
| Tunisia | 5 | 4 |
| Canada | 3 | 2 |
| United Kingdom | 2 | 1 |
| Others | 5** | 4 |
| Total | 133 | 100 |

* 43/133 (32%) of all scholars received training in Mansoura Urology and Nephrology Center, Egypt.

** France, Spain, Netherlands, Brazil and Austria.

Table 3: Hosting SIU accredited Training Institutes (2002-2009, 133 scholars)

| Response from SIU Scholar | Yes (%) | No (%) |
|---|---------|--------|
| Did the training meet your expectations? | 93 | 7 |
| Did you have hands-on experience? | 79 | 21 |
| Were the skills acquired applicable to your practice? | 86 | 14 |

Table 4: Summary of results of SIU Scholarship evaluation questionnaires

What the Scholars Say

Personal Reports of the SIU Scholars

In accordance with its mission “to enable urologists in all nations, through international cooperation in education and research, to apply the highest standards of urological care to their patients”, the SIU has during the past decade conducted a Training Scholarship programme, which remains one of its highest priorities.

The Board of Chairmen (BOC) of the SIU established an Institutes and Scholarships Committee which was chaired for several years with great enthusiasm and efficiency by Prof. Joachim Thüroff from Mainz, Germany. Under his guidance the Training Scholarship programme was expanded significantly and several new SIU Training Institutes were evaluated and accredited. The Institutes and Scholarships Committee is currently chaired by Prof. Hassan Abol-Enein from Mansoura, Egypt.

When Dr. Eric Klein from the Cleveland Clinic was appointed in 2008 as editor of *Urology*, official journal of the SIU, he agreed to publish the reports submitted by SIU Scholars at the completion of their training period. With the able editorial assistance of Donna Bressan, several reports have been placed in a prominent place in *Urology*, with a photograph and abbreviated curriculum vitae of the SIU Scholar.

These reports will give SIU members some insight into the successes and challenges of the Scholarship programme, as well as the significant need for further urological training in many parts of the world. Hopefully it will inspire many more candidates to apply for SIU Scholarships and to share in the benefits offered by this programme.

It is also hoped that several more centres of excellence in various parts of the world will step forward to apply for accreditation as SIU Training Centres, so that the Scholarship programme can be further expanded. Details about application for SIU Scholarships and for accreditation of Training Institutes can be found on the SIU website at www.siu-urology.org/

The two main impediments to expanding the SIU Scholarships programme are the financial constraints on the SIU budget, and the availability of accredited Training Institutes. All SIU members can contribute by regularly paying their membership fees, by attending SIU Congresses (its main source of revenue), and by persuading their colleagues to join the SIU – not only for the benefits of membership, but also to support the world-wide training and educational activities of the SIU.

“Procedures That I Had Never Seen”



Dr. Ammar Fadil Abid

I am very grateful to the SIU committee for offering me this scholarship, and I will never forget the amazing Professor El-Kassaby, as well as Hassan Abol-Enein and all the seniors at Mansoura.”

“Immense Benefit”



Dr. Blessing Ngonidzashe Dziwa

The most direct benefit was the opportunity to observe and assist in procedures that I could not access in my home country. Most African facilities are not equipped with the expertise and equipment to perform endourologic procedures. I had done few before my attachment, but, although the learning curve is

steep, I managed to perform the basics. I also learned the principles of transurethral resection of the prostate and laparoscopic procedures. The most important thing I have learned, perhaps more important than all the procedures I learned, is that everything and anything is possible in the right circumstances.”

“Very successful training experience”



Dr. Xiao Gu

I was highly engaged during my fellowship time and had a very successful training experience. On completion of this fellowship, I returned to my home hospital in China, and introduced the Vanderbilt urologic experiences to my colleagues and applied their comprehensive approach to patient care. These novel ideas and technologies obtained at Vanderbilt have markedly improved patient care in my home hospital. Beyond the academic achievements, the SIU scholarship also gave me the opportunity to build and enhance great friendships with American urologists.”

“A Productive Year”

Dr. Sundeep K. Chavda from Kenya attended the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi, India under the supervision of Prof. N. P. Gupta. In his report he stated: “I had a productive year at the AIIMS. The training was good and I gained considerable experience in urology procedures. I now intend to return to Kenya and will try incorporating into practice what I have learned here at the AIIMS and also develop the Department of Urology at the local hospital there.”

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*Dr. Chidiebere
Ndukwe Ogo*

"A Rare Opportunity"

Dr. Chidiebere Ndukwe Ogo from Nigeria was introduced to the SIU by a fellow resident in cardiology, who challenged him by saying: "If you want to practice modern urology, then you have to go overseas for further training." Dr. Ogo realized that he need not literally go overseas, and that he could get the required training on his own continent, at the Urology and Nephrology Centre (UNC) in Mansoura, Egypt. He says: "The SIU scholarship gave me a rare opportunity to obtain six months of training in a world-class urology center. I was extremely overjoyed. The knowledge I acquired and the hands-on training I received in all aspects of urology are invaluable. The potential limitation I had initially was the language barrier. However, my colleagues and other staff at the center commendably helped me through, for which I remain very grateful. The training stirred my interest in research, both clinical and experimental. This has had a positive effect on the quality of my teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate urology. Before my SIU training, I had no published studies; now, I am actively participating in some published and several ongoing research works. Above all, the SIU scholarship training built up my confidence in urology, with a resolve to seriously pursue my career to excellence. It has had a tremendous effect on my practice and career in urology that is invaluable and cannot be fully quantified."

"Effect on my Medical Practice"

Dr. Viacheslav Iremashvili from Russia elected to spend his SIU training period in the Department of Urology of the United College of London Hospital, with Prof. Tony Mundy, Mark Emberton and Prof. Christopher Woodhouse. In his report he said: "I have



*Dr. Viacheslav
Iremashvili*

to confess that it was my first visit abroad, and I was very anxious about it, but everything there exceeded my expectations. The experience that I had at the University College of London Hospital had a significant effect on my medical practice in Russia. It changed my understanding of the management of various urologic diseases. I would like to kindly thank the SIU for this scholarship. I am absolutely sure that this program will help many urologists from developing countries to improve their professional skills, just as it did in my case."

"Positive Changes"



*Dr. Amogu
Kalu Eziyi*

Upon my return, I wish to effect positive changes in the urological practices at my hospital and improve the treatment options provided to patients. I will work with the hospital directors to consider funding avenues for the procurement of the basic equipment required to practice what I have learned. I also plan to teach as many doctors as possible the techniques I learned during my training. The program considerably improved my urological practice, teaching ability, and clinical research acumen."

"Quite Awesome"



*Dr. Anthony
Maina Kariuki*

I was initially astounded by the sheer scope in Urology and the wide range of equipment in the hospital, to which hitherto I had only limited exposure. I was intro-

Dr. Amogu Kalu Eziyi from Nigeria spent his training period in Mansoura, Egypt. He states: "The members of the centre were welcoming and cooperative, and I gained significant experience during the

duced to a wide range of clinical conditions, excellent diagnostic approaches and decision making in evaluation and management of patients based on various levels of evidence. Theatres were highly organised and I am grateful to have been given a great opportunity to participate, assist and operate. Surgery in Tygerberg Hospital is highly interactive and I was guided through surgical procedures patiently and diligently. Laparoscopic and endoscopic surgery were quite awesome and no efforts were spared in taking me through every step of the procedure. The collaboration between the SIU and various regional Universities to help in training Urologists from less endowed countries is quite noble and my hope is that this noble cause will continue."

"Extremely Caring and Hospitable"



*Dr. Abdulwahab-Ahmed
Abdullahi*

I made many friends amongst them and I learnt to speak Arabic. Prof. Ismail Khalaf made me feel at home throughout my stay and the same can be said of all the staff members in the Urology Department at Al-Azhar University. The Scholarship Training programme of the SIU is laudable, it is achieving its aims and objectives, allowing young urologists from resource-poor settings the opportunity to see and participate in advanced urologic procedures in ideal settings. I have benefited from this programme and I hope that many more in my situation will be fortunate enough to share in this. Increasing the number of scholarships per year will be a step in the right direction of affording many more trainees this benefit. I have learnt many techniques in Urology during my stay in Cairo, many of these requiring instruments which are unfortunately not available in my centre. It is only natural that if my community is to benefit from my SIU scholarship training, these

Dr. Abdulwahab-Ahmed Abdullahi from Nigeria spent his SIU training period at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, where Prof. Ismail Khalaf was his supervisor. "I found the people (in Cairo) to be extremely caring and

instruments should be available in my centre.”

“A Far Better Urologist”

Dr. Habeeb Kehinde Tijani from Nigeria selected Mansoura for his training. “At the center, I was able to observe procedures that I had only imagined and read about in books and journals. Without a doubt, by the time I left, I was a far better urologist than when I had arrived, six months earlier. However, I hope that the SIU will consider sending experts to centres in different countries for a few months to train local urologists. I believe that with such rotation from one centre to another, more urologists from developing countries will be trained with better hands-on experience.”

“A Memorable Experience”

Dr. Tarik Sulaiman Abulhul from Libya spent his training period at Ain Shams Hospital in Cairo under the supervision of Prof. El-Kassaby. Among the statements in his report are the following: “Training in urology in Egypt was a memorable experience. I am pleased to have been one of the SIU scholars, and I hope to always be an active member of the SIU programmes in our continent, Africa.”

“Innovative Techniques”



Dr. Azfar Uddin Shaikh

Dr. Azfar Uddin Shaikh from Bangladesh elected to undergo training at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi under Prof. N. P. Gupta. “One of my goals was to learn how to provide standard urologic

care with limited financial resources. I benefited very much from my training, because I could apply innovative techniques to reduce the costs to my indigent patients in Bangladesh without compromising the quality of my service.” About the AIIMS his comments were: “The academic environment was very good, especially the journal club and radiology meetings, and I learned

a great deal from those discussions. I am grateful to the SIU Scholarship Committee for providing me with such a great opportunity.”

“SIU Scholarship Opened the Door”



Dr. Naser Sabeh Hussein

the SIU scholarship opened the door for the treatment of urologic diseases, which previously were difficult to treat. This training has improved many things and was of great benefit.”

Dr. Naser Sabeh Hussein from Iraq spent his training period at Mansoura. “This visit greatly influenced my career regarding the services that I could provide to patients, and the clinical information that I could share with my colleagues. Also,

“We Need More Training Time”

Dr. Mohamed Zahid Almasri from the Sudan elected to undergo SIU training under the mentorship of Prof. Ismail Khalaf and his colleagues at Al-Azhar University, Cairo. He states: “After finishing the training I am back in Sudan, applying most of the new skills and knowledge that I received there, and I feel more satisfied regarding my career. I continue to have excellent relations with most of the colleagues in Egypt. They have visited us twice in Sudan and during these visits they conducted excellent comprehensive courses. My colleagues and I regularly consult our professors at Al-Azhar about many of our complicated cases, and we appreciate their advice. I am very satisfied regarding the advantages of the training that I received in Egypt, but I believe that we need more training time to improve the quality of urological practice in Sudan.”



Dr. Pius Mutune Musau

“Assistance to the Less Advantaged”

Dr. Pius Mutune Musau from Kenya spent two years at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC),

Moshi, Tanzania. Apart from gaining extensive clinical experience in Urology, he participated in offering outreach services in the remote areas in conjunction with the Flying Doctors services run by the African Medical Research Foundation. “This gave me the opportunity to see patients in different settings, to provide assistance to the less advantaged in society, and to learn about regional healthcare integration. After completing my studies (at KCMC) I have no doubt that I am fully equipped both theoretically and practically to undertake the practice of urologic surgery. I am perpetually grateful for the financial support from SIU, and I pray that its efforts be sustained to help many others like me in the years to come.”

“No Words to Express my Happiness”



Dr. Ausama Saadi Abdul Muhsin

Dr. Ausama Saadi Abdul Muhsin wrote: “When I became a lecturer in the Department of Urology at the Nahrain College of Medicine, Baghdad, Iraq, all the people were having a very difficult time due

to the war of 2003 and its consequences. I believe that civilisation is similar all over the world and because there are people like those working in the SIU who care about the distress of other people and work hard to improve the surgical experience of urologists, hope and life become real instead of being dreams for many patients and unskilled surgeons. When I was accepted at the Mansoura Urology and Nephrology Centre in Egypt in 2006, I left my wife after only two weeks of married life to follow my dream of learning as much as possible from this great centre for six months. There are no words to express my happiness and deep gratitude to the SIU scholarship program and to the centre where I learnt so much. This step truly changed my life, and has led to continuous change in my academic and professional life. I would like to stress the extreme benefit of the SIU scholarship in my academic and research activities, in addition to the practical and social advantages.” ■



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