

SIU Scholar: Dr. Abdullah Alhassan

The Société Internationale d'Urologie offers Training Scholarships for young doctors with basic surgical or urological qualifications. The SIU Scholarships involve training in a recognized Urological center of excellence located in the candidate's geographical region. These SIU-accredited centers provide an excellent environment for learning and, in many instances, hands-on experience, so that candidates may acquire knowledge and skills that they will be able to transfer to their own setting of practice. In this series of short communications, SIU Scholars write about the impact that these training opportunities facilitated by the SIU had on their quality of care and career development. Information about applying for an SIU Scholarship is available at <http://www.siu-urology.org/>. Three years ago, when my friend Dr. Mazen Hasan returned from the United States he told me that he had received a Société Internationale d'Urologie (SIU) scholarship and advised me to apply for it. At the same time, I had met Professor Elkappany and obtained acceptance for 6 months of training. I sent my application to the SIU Central Office before I finished my specialist training.

It was a great pleasure when I received the acceptance letter from Professor Abol-Enein. When I had finished my training period at Aleppo University Hospitals, I started my SIU scholarship training at Mansoura Urology and Nephrology Center (UNC) in December 2009.

When I arrived, I was welcomed by Professors Dawaba, Abol-Enein, and El-Zalouey. Because pediatric urology is my subspecialty of interest, I spent 6 months with the Department of Pediatric Urology at the Mansoura UNC.

I attended daily morning meetings, a journal club meeting every Monday night (I presented one of them), and a clinical meeting on Thursdays that many professors attended and during which interesting cases were presented.

The training was good, and I assisted in the management of many cases, including hypospadias and epispadias repair and treatment of their complications, vesicoureteral reflux management, pyeloplasty, and the closure of ectopia vesicae (bladder exstrophy).

The library at the Mansoura UNC was wonderful. The collection included a wide variety of urologic journals, including *The Journal of Urology*, *Urology*, *European Urology* and *the Journal of Endourology*, among others, in addition to many books.



Abdullah Alhassan, SIU Scholar

I attended several international training courses at the UNC, including "Techniques in Reconstructive Urology," "Uro-Laparoscopy," and "Techniques in Female Urology." I also attended the fifth Ain-Shams Conference on Stone Management, the Al-Azhar Department Conference, and the Almounfia Conference.

I observed many interesting procedures, including laparoscopic nephrectomy, adrenalectomy, renal cyst deroofing, and laparoscopic orchiopexy. Two reports on hypospadias will be published by the pediatric urology team at Mansoura UNC, with me as a coauthor.

During my SIU scholarship training, I passed the final examination to obtain my Syrian Urology Master's degree. Currently, I perform pediatric urology procedures with more confidence.

I would like to thank everyone who helped me to obtain this training period, although it is difficult to name them all. I am very grateful to the SIU Committee for offering me this scholarship, and I will never forget the amazing Professor Dawaba, Professor El-Zalouey, and Professor Hassan Abol-Enein and all the seniors at the Mansoura UNC.

Abbreviated CV. Dr. Abdullah Alhassan was born in Der Alzour, Syrian Arab Republic, in 1978. He obtained his medical degree in 2003 at the University of Damascus. He worked in the Department of Internal Medicine at Almussah Hospital during 2004, passed the United States Medical Licensing Examination steps 1 and 2 in 2004. From 2005 to 2009, he worked

in the Urology Department at the University of Aleppo's Hospitals. During January 2008 he did an elective training rotation in the Urology Department of the American University of Beirut Medicine Centre. Since 2009 he has been a member of the Syrian Urological Association. He has published one article in the *Arab Journal of Urology* in Lebanon in 2009, and he has

attended >10 international congresses and workshops. From December 2009 to June 2010, he completed an SIU training scholarship at the Mansoura University UNC in Egypt.

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