

## SIU Scholarship: Dr. Alireza Farshi Haghro

*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/>.*

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to the SIU scholarship committee for the award that enabled me to visit one of most famous laparoscopic urology centers in Europe from May to October 2006. I spent 6 months on the SIU scholarship doing a course at the SLK Klinikum in Heilbronn, Germany, which had a deep effect on my knowledge of specialized urology and career.

The training program involved several steps, and initially, I practiced in the laboratory, using simulators to learn how to handle laparoscopic instruments with both hands under camera vision. After that, I progressed to the operation theater and participated as second assistant during laparoscopic procedures. Then, I changed to first assistant and, finally, I performed some operations under supervision.

The spectrum of my activities included advanced laparoscopic procedures such as radical prostatectomy, simple nephrectomy, partial and radical nephrectomy, simple and radical cystectomy (including reconstruction of neobladder), pyeloplasty, ureterolysis, ureterovesical anastomosis, adrenalectomy, and PCNL.

When I returned to my country, I started laparoscopic surgeries at my hospital. Many of my colleagues are interested in learning laparoscopic techniques and participating in surgeries. At present, we perform several laparoscopic procedures in our department.

I would like to use this opportunity to make a suggestion. I think that a 6-month scholarship and \$5000 cannot adequately provide for an education in new tech-



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niques such as laparoscopy. In my opinion, the scholarship period should be 1 year, with an award of at least \$20,000. Once again, I appreciate and thank the SIU very much for their support.

**Abbreviated CV.** Dr. Alireza Farshi Haghro was born on August 1, 1960, in Tabriz, Iran. He studied at the Tabriz Medical Sciences University from 1978 to 1987, and graduated with an MD. He completed his postgraduate education in urology at the Modarres Hospital, Beheshti Medical Sciences University, Tehran, and obtained the Iranian Board of Urology certification in 1997. He is a member of the Iranian Urological Society, the Iranian Endourology Society, and the Société Internationale d'Urologie. He is the author of 15 articles published in Iranian journals and has presented 19 articles at urology meetings.

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