

SIU Scholarship: Dr. Ammar Fadil Abid

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 spent the first month of my training with Professor El-Kassaby. Upon my arrival in Cairo, he invited me home for dinner and I met his family. He then showed me photographs of some of the more interesting surgical procedures he had performed. I was fortunate enough to have had such a wonderful mentor right from the outset of my training.

Every day, I would observe surgical procedures, mainly in reconstructive surgery, in Ain Shams. I participated in many urethroplasties with Professor El-Kassaby, and my work in Iraq has benefited greatly from the surgical techniques that I learned from him.

A month into my training, I asked Professor El-Kassaby to contact his friend at the Mansoura Center to allow me to observe other types of surgery. At Mansoura, I was welcomed by Dr. Hassan Abol-Enein. I attended daily morning meetings, a journal club meeting every Monday night, and a clinical meeting on Thursdays which many professors attended and during which interesting cases were presented.

For almost 5 months, I attended surgeries daily, mainly radical cystectomies with continent diversion according to the Abol-Enein technique. I also observed and participated in procedures in endourology, a field that I encountered for the first time, and which I would like to apply in my country once the equipment becomes available.

I spent more than a month with the Department of Pediatric Urology at Mansoura. I witnessed hypospadias repair, ureteric reimplantation, pyeloplasty, and the closure of ectopia vesicae. As most residents attended the surgeries performed on adults, I had the opportunity to assist with the surgeries in this department.



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The library at the Mansoura Center was wonderful; the collection included a wide variety of urologic magazines (*American Journal of Urology*, *Urology*, *European Urology*, *Journal of Endourology*, etc.) in addition to many books.

I observed many interesting procedures that I had never seen performed in my country, such as laparoscopic nephrectomy, adrenalectomy, renal cyst deroofing, and laparoscopic orchidopexy. I now perform hypospadias repair and urethroplasty with more confidence.

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.

Abbreviated CV. Dr. Ammar Fadil Abid was born in Baghdad, Iraq, in 1972. He studied medicine at Al-Mustanciryia University from 1990 to 1996, and he obtained the degrees MB, ChB. He completed his internship at the Al-Yarmuk University Hospital, Baghdad. In 1998, he undertook postgraduate studies

in urology, and he obtained the Fellowship of the Iraqi Board of Urology (FICMS) in 2003. His postgraduate dissertation dealt with the clinical and urodynamic evaluation of diabetic patients presenting with voiding disorders. He has been a lecturer in the Department of Urosurgery at Al-Mustanciryia University and the Al-Yarmuk Teaching Hospital, Baghdad, since 2003. He is

a member of the Iraqi Urological Association and a corresponding member of the European Association of Urology.

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