

SIU Scholarship: Dr. Chidiebere Ndukwe Ogo

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/>.

My first contact with SIU scholarship training was during a discussion with a colleague, then a resident in cardiology, who introduced me to the SIU Web site. He challenged me by saying that "if you want to practice modern urology, then you have to go overseas for further training." He then suggested the Urology and Nephrology Centre (UNC) in Mansoura, Egypt.

The SIU Scholarship training program afforded me the opportunity to realize this dream. The choice of a training institution must be in the applicant's geographic area; therefore, I chose the UNC in Mansoura, Egypt. In addition, I received strong recommendations from my teachers, Professor D. N. Osegbe of Lagos, Nigeria, and Dr. H. Mbibu of Ahmadu Bello Teaching Hospital, Zaria, Nigeria, who had also benefited from the SIU scholarship training program.

The SIU scholarship gave me a rare opportunity to obtain 6 months of training in a world-class urology center. I was extremely overjoyed. My expectations at the outset were

1. To obtain a wider range of skills and knowledge related to patient care and research in urology
2. To obtain hands-on training in operative procedures such as renal transplantation, radical cystectomy, urinary diversion, and endourology
3. To obtain hands-on exposure to modern diagnostic and therapeutic procedures such as urodynamics and transrectal ultrasonography
4. To avail myself of the opportunity to use the huge resources in the center such as the library and to interact with experts in the field of urology

Were my expectations met? I must say that overall I had a satisfactory training period, and I make bold to assert



Chidiebere Ndukwe Ogo, SIU Scholar

that I achieved >95% of my expectations. The knowledge I acquired and the hands-on training I received during the 6 months in all aspects of urology are invaluable.

On arrival for the training, I was asked to state my expectations and my core interest area. This I did, bearing in mind the limitations in both the facilities and manpower in the field of urology in my home country, Nigeria.

Initially, I had wanted to concentrate on renal transplantation, endourology, and radical cystectomy with urinary diversion; however, when I observed the various subspecialties in urology practiced at the UNC Mansoura, and knowing that these are lacking in my home country, I decided to avail myself of the opportunity by not limiting myself to these areas. Thus, I divided the time for different subsections of urology to enable me to cover much ground.

I started with renal transplantation, because this was still a rarity in my country. I received both theoretical and hands-on training in the surgery of renal transplantation and the management of its complications. Next, was my experience in urologic oncology, with an emphasis on bladder cancer and urinary diversion, renal tumors, and prostate cancer. The endourology aspect of my training was exceptional, although I had little hands-on experience. The training spurred me on to a great interest, and presently I am making steady progress in lower urinary tract endoscopy and transurethral procedures.

I spent 1 month with the pediatric urology division. It was greatly rewarding, and what I learned has improved my knowledge and practice of pediatric urology remark-

ably. Interventional radiology, urodynamics, and modern treatment of stone disease were other areas of brief, but excellent, exposure.

The potential limitation I had initially was the language barrier, a non-Arab speaking person coming to an Arab-speaking nation. However, my colleagues and other staff at the center commendably helped me through, for which I remain very grateful. Another limitation was the relatively short period of training.

The training stirred up 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. On my return, I had to join other colleagues in ongoing research programs, while also initiating new ones. Before my SIU training, I had no published studies; now, I am actively participating in some published and several ongoing research works.

On my return and after obtaining a Fellowship of the West African College of Surgeons (Urology), I was appointed as a consultant urologist to pioneer the establishment of urologic practice at the Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta, Ogun State. My experience during the SIU scholarship training became a foundation and reference point in helping me and my colleagues in fashioning a path for the growth of the new division that was previously nonexistent.

Above all, the SUI scholarship training built up my confidence in urology, with a resolve to seriously pursue my career to excellence. For the future, I would like to pursue a subspecialty career in endourology and pediatric urology as soon as the opportunity arises. My visit and exposure as an SIU Scholar at the UNC Mansoura was a landmark event, and I can state without contradiction that it was the best thing that has happened to my training in urology. It has had a tremendous effect on my practice and career in urology that is invaluable and cannot be fully quantified.

My expectations were fulfilled to a very large extent, for which I am grateful, although I would have loved

more hands-on training in the operating room. My greatest limitation really was the short period of the training, and if I have another opportunity I will grab it heartily. However, I strongly suggest that more urologists from developing countries should avail themselves of this wonderful and rare opportunity.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the SIU staff, especially Professor Joachim Thüroff, former chairman of the SIU Institutes and Scholarships Committee, Professor Mostafa Elhilali, former Secretary General, and the staff at the SIU Central Office for this excellent policy of encouraging urologists from developing countries. I remain thankful and very appreciative to Professor Mohamed Ghoneim, Professor Hassan Abol-Enein, and Professor Ahmed Shokeir and all their associates and the entire staff at the UNC, Mansoura. Thank you and, as they say in Egypt, "Shokran gazeran."

Abbreviated CV. Dr. Chidiebere Ndukwe Ogo was born on November 13, 1969. He obtained the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery in 1995 at the University of Nigeria College of Medicine. He did his internship in 1997 and worked from 1998 to 2001 as a medical officer at the Federal Medical Centre in Abeokuta, Nigeria. He did his residency training in urology from 2002 to 2007 at the University Teaching Hospital, Lagos, Nigeria. As an SIU Scholar, he received training at the Urology and Nephrology Centre in Mansoura, Egypt from June to December 2006. He obtained a Fellowship of the West African College of Surgeons, as well as an Master of Science degree in Human Anatomy from the University of Nigeria in 2007. In December 2007, he was appointed as a consultant urologist at the Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta, Nigeria.

Dr. Chidiebere Ndukwe Ogo
E-mail: ogocn1311@yahoo.com