

SIU Scholarship: Dr. Pius Mutune Musau

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 had enrolled for a 2-year Masters of Science Programme at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC), Moshi, United Republic of Tanzania and was fortunate to receive SIU support twice in the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 academic years, and for this I am truly thankful. The financial support went a long way in assisting me to partially pay my tuition fee and enabling me to meet my academic and clinical obligations in my place of training.

During the 2 years of study, I had both academic and clinical hands-on experience that enabled me to complete the program successfully.

The academic program consisted of topic presentations every Thursday, covering relevant main topics in urology. These gave me the opportunity to read up on topics and to share knowledge in urology, both theoretical and the practical experience from the trainers. Radiology sessions took place every Monday afternoon. This was an opportunity to learn the key radiologic features and diagnosis of urologic problems. Histopathology sessions were held every Thursday afternoon. This linked the theory, surgery, and pathology and also helped in the diagnosis of difficult cases.

Hospital grand round sessions took place every Wednesday morning. This offered a comprehensive view of medical problems and also gave us the opportunity to present urology cases. There were also teaching sessions for undergraduate medical students rotating through the Urology Department, consisting of formal lectures and informal teaching on floor rounds.

I attended 2 conferences at KCMC, 1 on general surgery and 1 on strictures and reconstructive urologic surgery. These offered an opportunity to exchange ideas and new developments in the areas of specialty. I also wrote a dissertation on the profile and management of



Pius Mutune Musau, SIU Scholar

urethral strictures in KCMC. This gave me scientific knowledge of the published data and offered some understanding about the better care of patients with urethral stricture in KCMC.

My clinical duties included attending to patients in the urology outpatient clinics every Tuesday. This provided me with the practical skills of history taking, diagnosis, treatment, and long-term follow-up. Minor theater procedures were performed every Wednesday. This included Tru-Cut prostate biopsies, bilateral subcapsular orchiectomies, hydrocelectomies, and removal of ureteral stents.

The management of outpatient care included performing transrectal ultrasound examinations on Wednesdays. This gave me an opportunity for comprehensive management of urologic patients with lower urinary tract symptoms. My clinical duties included emergency surgery and reviewing urologic cases during the times I was on call. This offered lessons in emergency care and the decision-making process.

Elective theater lists took place on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Both endoscopic and open surgical procedures were performed, including direct vision internal urethrotomy, transurethral resection of the prostate, transurethral resection of bladder tumors, cystoscopy, ureteral catheterization for retrograde pyelography, open prostatectomy, nephrectomy, cystectomy, urinary diver-

sion procedures, urethroplasty, and hypospadias repair. These were the hands-on skills imparted by my trainers and constituted the practical experience necessary for my future practice in urology.

Offering outreach services in the remote areas in conjunction with the Flying Doctors services run by the African Medical Research Foundation consisted of 3 outings in total, with extensive experience in endoscopic and open surgery. 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.

While at KCMC, I performed 110 and assisted in 121 elective procedures and, after completing my studies, 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.

Abbreviated CV. Dr. Pius Mutune Musau was born on August 9, 1972 in Machakos District, Kenya. He obtained his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery degrees in 1997 at the Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya. He obtained a Master of Medicine in General Surgery at the University of Nairobi, Kenya in 2005 and obtained a Master of Science in Urology at Tumaini University, Moshi, United Republic of Tanzania in July 2008. He has published 3 papers in the East Africa Medical Journal and has 4 manuscripts in press.

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