

A group of students learning surgical techniques



Developments in Abu Dies, Nablus and Gaza

The first medical school to be established in Palestine is located primarily on the campus of Al-Quds University in Abu Dies to the south-east of Jerusalem and just outside the 'official Israeli' borders of the city. The original facilities were limited and have been upgraded with external grants. A purpose designed building for the Faculty of Medicine was completed in June 2003, with excellent facilities. Clinical teaching is conducted in many affiliated hospitals by designated clinical teachers appointed by the University.

Despite relatively short distances, travel restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, necessitated the development of medical teaching at other sites. This eventually led to separate medical schools with their own intake of students. There are now 4 Palestinian medical schools serving different regions: Al Quds University at Abu Dies (Dean, Dr Hani Abdeen), An-Najah University, Nablus (Dean, Dr Anwar Dudin) Al-Azhar University Gaza (Dean, Dr Suhail Madbak) and Islamic University Gaza (Dean, Dr Mokhalalati). Since the school was first established, there has been major development of the Abu Dies campus. The new campus at An-Najah University is also very impressive, and there are plans in both Abu Dies and in Nablus to establish a dedicated University Hospital. Both medical schools in Gaza have achieved much despite conditions of great difficulty and shortage. Visiting lecturers and examiners have reported on the amazing spirit and endurance shown by people in general and medical workers in particular.

While maintaining its established links with Al Quds University, FQMS has extended support to the other medical schools, encouraging cooperation and integration between sites whenever circumstances allow. FQMS remains the established logo of the charity, which now represents:

*The Al Quds Foundation
for Medical Schools in Palestine.*

The following paragraphs are excerpts from recent reports by the respective Deans of the different faculties of medicine:

Al-Quds University

Dr Hani Abdeen BM FRCP(UK)FCCP Dean of the School of Medicine, writes "There is no doubt that FQMS support has been pivotal in the development of the medical school. The iron clad support for the infrastructure and students cannot be overemphasised. In the last year FQMS has generously helped in the following areas:

"Supplementing the Anatomy Lab with extra models/manikins specially ordered from the UK and shipped to Palestine, to the tune of \$60,000. Development of e-learning as a new modality. This has enhanced the capacity of teaching and made it easier for students to access academic material much more readily and at a more leisurely pace. This in turn facilitated the fragmented ties that existed between the various branches of Palestinian medical School in An-Najah and Al-Azhar Universities.

"Encouragement of medical student bodies-PMSS and IFMSA, in their various activities whether on the national or international arenas. Support students in their fifth year overseas elective periods where students are given the opportunity to extend their horizon about different healthcare systems and gain a wider experience in global health.

"Continued with their generous support of accommodation sites for the clinical students during their clinical clerkships in the various medical sites affiliated with the medical school; mainly in Hebron, Ramallah and Nablus.

"Contributed in a positive and understanding way towards the clinicians reimbursement as agreed between the school and the clinical tutors. Help in capacity building by training graduates in certain medical specialties that are needed by the Palestinian Community. There are already two candidates doing neurology in London and one in nephrology in Norwich in the UK.

Al-Quds Medical School has much to celebrate and can rightly take pride in its accomplishments. But the changes, challenges and opportunities confronted by the world around us, require rigorous self-examination.”

Islamic University, Gaza

Dr Mofeed Mokhallalati, Dean of Medicine, writes: “At the moment, the 1st batch students are on their 3rd year, and we already have 2 more batches at 1st and 2nd year level. The total is 150 in all levels. They are the best among all high school graduates. Last year was unique, since we are having all the top ten students from the high school (Tawjihi) are enrolled at the Islamic university college of medicine.

“The college of medicine at the Islamic University was able to purchase and install a Virtual anatomy laboratory which was established 2.5 years ago from German and British products. It contains many anatomy models, illustration, and C-section cuts of human body models in addition to many virtual anatomy software plus 30 computers for students and teachers use. “All textbooks and electronic materials were distributed free of any charge to students at all levels.

Most of students especially the excellent and needy students were all covered by financial grants from the university itself or from external donors like the kind donation made by the FQMS last year.

“ The College of medicine in the Islamic University successfully concluded their 1st Medical conference held in the 15 & 16 of March. It was attended by more than 500 academicians & clinicians on the first day and by about half this number in the second.

“The deanship of the college of medicine has made all the necessary arrangements were made and agreements were signed with the main Gaza hospitals for students clinical training which will start next year.

“The university has secured the land as permanent location and the funding for the proposed Islamic university college of medicine and teaching hospital, but still waiting for borders to open so construction material can come in. The college of medicine has made many arrangements and agreements with various universities and hospital for future training and clinical attachments in Germany, Turkey and South Africa.”

Azhar University, Gaza

Dr Suhail Madbak MD, FRCSi the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, writes: “As a component of the Palestinian Faculty of Medicine - Al Quds university it is already recognized and approved by the Ministry of Higher Education , also there is reciprocal recognition from the British GMC and the American ECFMG in the graduation plan and the degree given to the students by the FoM Al Azhar university. Many of the graduates of the FoM are getting their postgraduate medical specializations in different countries abroad.

“Acceptance of students in the faculty is based fairly on competition between them according to highest marks in the secondary certificate

and personal interview for each candidate. The number accepted yearly is decided by the FoM council guided by the university policy. The highest standard experts and higher qualifications in their specialties have been chosen to teach and train the students both in basic and clinical subjects; Fellows and Members of the Royal Colleges, American and Arab Boards candidates and equivalent degrees are the cornerstone of this faculty.

“All subjects including all the levels are delivered to the students in the main quarter of the faculty , but the clinical teaching and training are give in the hospitals and centres of the Ministry of Health (MoH) that meets the requirement of the FoM .

The clinical training of the students of FoM was evaluated by Profes-

sor Colin Green; director Northwick Park Institute University of London as the best among some of the neighbouring countries considering the resources. Included in the grand design for the whole university planning is going on to build a university hospital for the Faculty of Medicine at Al-Azhar university. Al Azhar university is fortunate in having a strong and influential committee of trustees and presidential council to support the faculty of medicine.

The Faculty moved into a new building in April 2007 at the main quarter of the university to accommodate the whole basic academic activities of the faculty with some clinical

science teaching. This building contains the laboratories of pathology, museum for anatomy and histology, the faculty also makes use of the labs of the faculty of science of the university for some practical sessions in basic medical sciences.”

An Najah University, Nablus

From Dr Anwar Dudin the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine: “In the academic year 2006-2007, the Ministry of Higher Education approved the inception of clinical education phase at An- Najah University, and in the academic year 2007/2008 the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education recognized An- Najah University Faculty of Medicine as an independent college, an important step pursued by An-Najah national University to strengthen the medical education and services in the underserved and less privileged North part of West Bank .

“To fulfil this challenge, launching the university hospital is planned to provide high standard medical services to the local community, equally responding to the training needs of medical students. Currently the Ministry Health Hospitals are the main training sites, awaiting An-Najah University Hospital to be operational within the next two years.

“Just recently An-Najah University faculty of medicine was listed at the International Medical Education Directory (IMED) that enables our graduates to sit for the equivalency exams in the united States of America (USA), and we are working on listing the faculty at the WHO directory . Our enrolled students in the six years of study total 260 and we expect to graduate our first batch of 23 students next June”.

Chris McConville MBE reports

how FQMS spent your money -	2008
Direct Charitable Expenditure	£
Payments for - faculty salary support & clinical teachers	70,000
Postgraduate fellowship training programme in sub-specialities	44,819
Teachers & examiners to the Occupied Territories	30,777
Inernet line connection	7,110
e-learning & internet links	15,710
Student clinical elective attachments & Student Associations	53,788
Student emergency accommodation	14,550
Anatomy models & computers to Al Quds University	55,754
Grants to Najah, Islamic, Azhar & Quds Universities	57,760
Centre for Medical Education	2,682
Total direct expenditure	£352,950

Here are few of the many reports we have received on student on elective clinical placement in Turkey, Italy, Canada, the United Kingdom, Palestine, Jordan and Egypt:

Mohammad Jamal Gharbeyah in Eskisehir, Turkey: "I was in the cardiology department with 5 other international students under the supervision of Prof Dr Bulent Gorenek (MD, FESC, and FACC) My day was starting at 8:00 am by attending the morning report which was in Turkish but doctors helped us and summarized the cases in English.

After which we have to go rounds to see the patients in the department then to ICU where we saw a difficult cases and how they dealt with. It's a very modern, calm, safe and sound city. It's a suitable city for students. Most of the population is students. Because there are 2 universities in Eskisehir: Anadolu university and Osmangazi University."

Hadeel Hisham Gheith at Southampton General Hospital- UK

"My elective was at the upper GI division particularly I joined the HPB (Hepato-Biliary Pancreatic) super team with an expert in "Keyhole surgery" Mr Mohammad AbuHilal who is a consultant in hepatobiliary pancreatic and laparoscopic surgeon, Senior clinical lecturer at the School of medicine at Southampton University hospital. He is a Palestinian doctor and one of few surgeons who operates most of his cases using laparoscopic methods. For sure thank you Mr AbuHilal for your care, I learnt a lot from you."

Samer AbdelRazeq was at AbeInternational Pediatric Emergency Medicine Elective (IPEME) in Toronto, Ontario "It was a four-week summer elective course in Pediatric Emergency Medicine gathering 12 students from the middle east and Canada. It was offered by the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM), Hospital for Sick Children and CISEPO in partnership with the Peter A. Silverman Centre for International Health, Mount Sinai Hospital. Children up to the age of 18 years with any acute and/or serious medical or surgical problems including all types of trauma are seen around the clock in the pediatric emergency department.

This summer elective focused on common emergencies seen in pediatrics, the role of research in PEM, and an introduction to global health issues related to children.

The elective focused on core courses that provide: + A foundation in common pediatric problems & emergencies, an introduction to global pediatric health issues.+ Education about Emergency Medical issues affecting children around the world; + Leadership skills to take up leadership roles in their future careers; + Skills for analyzing existing data and literature, and the role of evidence based medicine. + General strategies for design and evaluation of interventions in clinical and public health settings.

Nafiseh Abdulkader Ahmad Tamimi at Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem: "I used to reach the hospital at 7:30 am. The first station of my day was what I called 'The Pre-round' in which I joined the two residents of the ward, Dr Akram Karma and Dr Ali Mostakret, to see

the patients' hospital progress during the last night as a preparation for the round with our consultant, Dr Hani Abdeen.

In the pre-round, we used to see all our patients who were in the ward and the ICU. We used to have a little chat with the patients to hear their new complaints, do a rapid exam for them to pick up any new sign they may have developed recently, check their vital signs – fluid balances – electrolyte levels, check glucose levels for diabetics, and prepare the presentation of new cases.

At 8:30 am our "Morning Report" was held. Each one of us, Dr Akram, Dr Ali, and myself was responsible for presenting part of the cases to Dr Abdeen. New admissions were presented in detail, concerning their history, physical examination, problem list, investigations, and alternative diagnoses. Also, we presented the follow up of the previously admitted patients especially their response to the type of management they were

receiving.

Then, we did the 'Round' in which we saw the patients according to the serial numbers of their rooms: the round gained its importance from the specialist's evaluation of the patients which was a development for our follow up and his opinion.

Sometimes Dr Abdeen asked us to examine the patients in front of him. He used to guide us throughout the steps and advise us with the best way

of examining the targeted aspects in each patient.

After Dr Abdeen evaluated the patient and while we were still on the patient's bedside, we used to continue our discussion until the definitive diagnosis was made. And when that was achieved, we all participated in discussing the various possible lines of management in order to choose the one that will lead to the best response of the patient and guarantee his improvement."

AbdulFattah Fawzi Khdeir in Amman writes: "I started my day at 7:30am for the morning report which goes on till 8:00 where the residents introduce the new admissions to the consultant . . . really we had a great experience in taking history and how to search for findings on physical examination . . . also because the cases every day differ and considered a complicated cases so for sure it was a wonderful chance to see some thing like this.

"Then we do our rotations and rounds with the resident doctor to see the patients and what happened in their investigations and do the follow up before the consultant comes to do his round where in this round he discusses with us the cases we saw and asks us and for sure we immediately answer him to prove the capacity of Alquds university students . . . and many times he asks us to do assignments, then at 12:00 we have a lunch break till 1:00 . . . and at 1:00 there was a lecture for the residents every day with a different topic in one of the medical subspecialties and we finish at 2:00pm. For sure it was a great vacation this summer which combined both clinical experience and a time for entertainments . . . really I had a great experience which opened my mind more and more and to think in my future with more wisdom. I did my elective course in internal medicine subspecialties divided for the 4 weeks in Infectious Control,



Dr Hani Abdeen with trustees Sawsan Asfari & Zina Jardaneh in the computer laboratory equipped and upgraded by FQMS

GI, Nephrology , Endocrinology , Respiratory, and Cardiology.

I started with Infectious control with Dr Jamal Wadi a great consultant and a brilliant and clever doctor with whom I spent one week . . . with him I learned the way of thinking in medicine and he also taught me a lot of things ... really it was a great time. I saw many cases of Osteomyelitis, Aspergillosis, Meningitis , Encephalitis, ADAM syndrome, Chronic fatigue syndrome, Typhoid fever , cellulitis.

I had my rotation in GI with Dr Anwar Jarrad with whom I attended many upper and lower endoscopies for 2 days.

I had my rotation in Nephrology with a great consultant Ryad Sa'ed Really he is a great professor ... I saw with him many cases with ARF and CRF and many others like renal tubular acidosis and a lot of diabetic nephropathy and I spent with him up to 5 days . . . then we visited pathology lab to see the histopathology of renal biopsies . . . afterwards we visited the dialysis unit.

Then I had my rotation in Respiratory with Dr Samarah with whom I spent up to 5 days where I attended many Bronchoscopies and I had many rounds with him and I saw a lot of cases like bronchiectasis and COPD, lung CA, Pulmonary embolism and obstructive sleep apnea, and TB.

Then in Cardiology for 2 days where I attended many catheterisations . . . And at last I had my great rotation for on one week with Dr Mohammad Alzahri in Endocrinology ... with him I spent my great last days which I will not forget . . . I saw many cases like micro and macro pituitary adenoma like prolactinoma, also a lot of cases of hypo/hyperthyroidism and its complications like myopathy ... also a case with familial hyperlipidemia and hypertriglyceridemia, also a lot of cases of uncontrolled DM also Craniopharyngioma with visual field defect, and many cases of diabetes insipidus and adrenal gland tumors.

The Al-Quds Foundation for Medical Schools in Palestine

The Foundation is an independent UK registered charity formed with the purpose of advancing medical education in Palestine. Membership at £36 per year is open to all who support our objects. Visit our website www.fqms.org or write or call for a membership form or donate to:

FQMS, 34 Estelle Road,
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**the next FQMS Annual Dinner for Medical Education in Palestine will be held on
6 November 2009 at the Landmark Hotel, 222 Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JQ**



*Sawsan Asfari speaks at
the Annual Dinner 2008*

The Annual fundraising event for FQMS this year, held on 26 November 2008 at the Jumeriah Carlton Tower, proved to be a very successful and enjoyable evening. The main sponsor of the dinner was Hani Kalouti of HBK Investments Advisory SA, along with BSI Bank - Banca Svizzera Italiana and one Anonymous Donor. Following the opening statement by Sawsan Asfari, our trustee who directs fundraising, the keynote address was given by Professor Jacqueline Rose of Queen Mary College, University of London and author of the book *The Question of Zion*.

After dinner, Dr Malik Zaben and Dr Anan Shtrayya and Dr Fadi Al Kafri were introduced by Dr Saleem Haj Yahia and support was raised for their specialist training and the urgent needs of FQMS.

On that note, came a call for pledges and donations and an auction conducted by Tony Moore which generated a substantial amount of money for urgently needed projects and scholarships.

For comic respite, the evening ended with the Arab - American comedian Dean Obeidallah. The event was attended by about 290 people. FQMS wishes to thank the sponsors, all those who attended, those who advertised in the brochure, or contributed to the raffle prizes as well as all those who helped on the evening make the event such a success, raising over £100,000.