

Report on IUGA Educational Observership in the Urogynecology and Pelvic Floor Reconstruction Unit of Croydon University Hospital, Croydon, UK, led by Miss Raneer Thakar and Mr. Abdul Sultan



During the IUGA annual meeting in Toronto I was awarded the IUGA observership grant for 2011 and in March and April I had the great honour to join Miss Thakar and Mr. Sultan for 3 weeks in UK.

The aim of the observership was to gain new insights in consulting and management of women who sustain obstetric anal sphincter injuries (OASIS), endoanal sonography and manometry, and to discover the British teaching of urogynecology.

I got a warm welcome and I was attached to Miss Thakar and to Mr Sultan. I met the subspecialist urogynecology fellow, the international research team and the midwives and specialist nurses and I was embraced as a team member. I attended the perineal clinic 2 days a week, where women with postpartum problems and women with OASIS were consulted. I became familiar with endoanal sonography and the anal manometry. Nurses managed the bowel and bladder training classes and performed urodynamic examination and when needed referred the patient to the urogynecologist. Twice a month the urogynecologist, colorectal surgeon and colorectal nurse specialist conducted a pelvic floor clinic and consulted women with fecal incontinence, defecation disorders, prolapse or urinary problems. There is a tradition of close cooperation between both disciplines. I saw for the first time women in the perineal clinic with female genital mutilation and learned how they are managed. I also visited the Pessary clinic, as I was interested in the conservative management of urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse and got exposure to the huge range of pessaries used by women.

Two days a week I visited the operating theatre. I observed the Monarc or TVT procedures for stress incontinence, the traditional anterior repair and the sacrospinous ligament fixation and open sacrocolpopexy with Mesh. We discussed every patient and the surgical technique used and talked about the need for standardisation as for example a traditional anterior repair could be performed in different ways and in consequence with different results. I had also the opportunity to see the stapled transanal resection of rectum (STARR) and the anterior anal sphincter repair performed by the colorectal surgeon in cooperation with urogynecologist. Once a week we met with the research team and discussed the progress in their work.

I am very thankful and grateful to IUGA for funding this educational observership and to Miss Thakar and Mr. Sultan and the whole team of the Croydon University Hospital for receiving me and make me feel as one of their team. It was a great professional experience for me. Finally, I would like to encourage the IUGA to increase the number of educational awards.

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The use of funds awarded by IUGA to Rachid El Haddad

Observership for 2011

Date: 20/3-9/4/2011

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21.12.2010 I received on my account 74 631.43 CZK

Expenditures	83 646 CZK
Flight tickets:	14 587 CZK
Accommodation:	
Norfolk House Hotel 20-31/03/2011	465 GBP
Croydon Park Hotel 03-09/04/2011	615 GBP
Daily cost (food and transportation)	50-60 GBP
	= 2235 GBP = 69059 CZK
Total amount	= 83646 CZK

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