

Highlight

Launching of the MRCPCH Clinical Examination in Khartoum, Sudan

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The University of Khartoum (U of K) has graciously hosted the first MRCPCH Examiner Elect Course and the first MRCPCH Mock Clinical Exam at Soba Education, Training & Examinations Centre (SETEC), Soba University Hospital, University of Khartoum [1] on the 27th and 28th of September, 2016. Twenty examiner elects attended the course and participated in the Mock Examination of 24 candidates who will potentially take the first locally run clinical examination set to be on Monday and Tuesday 20th and 21st March, 2017 in Khartoum [2].

This was a long awaited step that followed the signature of the original Memorandum of Understanding back in April 2016 at the historic Baghdady Lecture Theatre [3] when Dr Bruce McLain (RCPC Middle East Advisor) visited Khartoum as an External Examiner for the MBBS exams at the Faculty of Medicine, U of K. The memorandum was jointly signed by Professor Salah Ahmed Ibrahim, the local host, Dr McLain, Professor Ammar Eltahir Ahmed (Dean, Faculty of Medicine, U of K) as well as Professor Osheik Seidi (Director of Scientific Research and Cultural Relations, U of K). The event was attended by the senior Sudanese paediatricians and U of K representatives for academic affairs (Figure 1).

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Figure 1 - The signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), UK and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Khartoum (U of K) at the historic Baghdady Lecture Theatre (April 2016)[3]. First row from left: Prof Salah Ahmed Ibrahim (the Local Host, Dean of Graduate College, U of K); Dr Bruce McLain (Chief Middle East RCPCH Examiner); Prof Ammar Eltahir Ahmed (Dean Faculty of Medicine, U of K), and Prof Osheik Seidi (Director of Scientific Research and Cultural Relations, U of K). Sitting from left: Prof Hafiz Elshazali (Guest of Honor, First Sudanese Head of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health [DPCH], U of K; Ex-President, Sudan Association of Paediatricians [SAP] and current Member, Editorial Board, Sudanese Journal of Paediatrics [SJP]); and Emeritus Professor Mohamed Ahmed Hassan Abdel Galil (Guest of Honor; Ex-Dean, Faculty of Medicine, U of K [1987- 1990]; and Editor-in-Chief, Khartoum Medical Journal). Second row from left: Dr Mohamed Sir K Hashim (Ex-President SAP, Ex-Head, DPCH, U of K); Dr Ilham Mohammed Omer (Head, DPCH, U of K); Dr Kamal Alzaki (Vice- Dean for Academic Affairs, Faculty of Medicine, U of K); Dr Ibrahim Gamar Al Dawla (Ex-Head, DPCH, U of K); Prof Mohammed Ahmed Abdullah (Ex-President SAP); Prof Zain A Karrar (President of the Sudan Medical Council, Ex-President SAP; Ex-Head, DPCH, U of K); and Prof Abdel Moneim Elseed (Ex-President SAP, Ex-Head, DPCH, U of K; and former Editor-in-Chief of SJP),

This great step would not have been possible without the huge efforts of Professor Salah Ahmed Ibrahim, Professor Ammar Eltahir Ahmed, Professor Mohammed Ahmed Abdullah (U of K), Dr Mohamed El-Hadi Al-Malik (Tawam Hospital, UAE) as well as the great efforts and perseverance of Dr Bruce McLain, Professor John Gregory, Dr Majeed Jawad and Dr Nina Moody, President of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), who was

invited by the Sudanese Society of neonatologists to attend the 20th Conference of the Sudan Association of Paediatricians (SAP) which was held in conjunction with the Second Conference for the Sudanese Neonatology Society (13-16 November, 2015) in Khartoum [4]. During that conference, Dr Nina Moody, President of the RCPCH, recommended Dr Bruce as External Examiner for the MBBS Exam at the Faculty of Medicine, U of K.

The first MRCPCH Clinical examination is scheduled to be held in Khartoum in March 2017 at Soba University Hospital premises and it is expected to include 48 candidates [2]. This will provide a great logistic support for those candidates who used to travel abroad to neighboring countries like Egypt and UAE to finalize their clinical counterpart of the exam. This means ease of local certification amongst the increasingly difficult visa issues and money transfer/financial issues.

The United Kingdom MRCPCH faculty who conducted the first MRCPCH Mock Clinical Exam at SETEC included Dr Bruce McLain (North Tees Hospital, Stockton –on-Tees) [Figure 2], Dr Graham Stewart (Glasgow), Professor John Gregory (Cardiff), and Dr Majeed Jawad (London) [Figures 3 and 4], Dr Hadi A Al Malik (Tawam, Al Ain, UAE) (Figure 5), Dr Omar Abbas (Dubai, UAE)[Figure 6]; and from Egypt, Dr Abla Alalfy and Dr Nagat Arafaat (Figures 7 and 8).



Figure 2 - Dr Bruce McLain, Chief Middle East RCPCH Examiner (Paediatric Gastroenterologist, North Tees Hospital, Stockton –on-Tees) delivering the welcome lecture on the Examiner Elect Course at Soba Education, Training & Examinations Centre, Soba University Hospital, University of Khartoum.



Figure 3 - Venue: Soba Education, Training & Examinations Centre, Soba University Hospital, University of Khartoum (U of K). Visiting RCPCH Examiners are in the first row. Left to right: Dr John Gregory (Cardiff, UK), Dr Mohamed El-Hadi Al-Malik (Tawam Hospital, UAE), Dr Graham Stewart (Glasgow, UK) and Dr Majeed Jawad (London, UK). Second row (left to right): Dr Mohamed Sir Elkhatim Hashim (University of Khartoum [U of K]) and Dr Maha Abdel Moneim Elseed (U of K).



Figure 4 - Venue: Soba Education, Training & Examinations Centre, Soba University Hospital, University of Khartoum (U of K). Dr Ahlam Adel Rahman Hamed (Chief Organizer of Venue; Associate Professor, U of K, [sitting second row]), Dr Graham Stewart, RCPCH Examiner (Glasgow, UK [Sitting first row]), and Prof John Gregory, RCPCH Examiner (Cardiff, UK [Standing]).



Figure 5 - Calibration station of the Mock Clinical MRCPC Examination (Soba Education, Training & Examinations Centre, Soba University Hospital, University of Khartoum [U of K]). From left: Prof Mohammed Ahmed Abdullah (U of K), Dr Mohamed El-Hadi Al-Malik (Tawam Hospital, UAE) and Prof John Gregory (Cardiff, UK).



Figure 6 - RCPCH Examiners. First row (left to right): Dr Omer Abbas (Dubai,UAE), Professor Zein A. Karrar (Sudan), Dr Abla Al Alfy (Egypt), and Dr Nagat Arafaat (Egypt). Second row, first left: Professor Eisa Osman Elamin (Ex-President, Sudan Association of Paediatricians; Examiner-Elect). Third row, far right: Dr Mohammed Khalil (Examiner-Elect; Father of Dr Mazin Khalil [5,6]). Venue: Professor Mohammed Ahmed Hassan Abdel Galil Lecture Theatre at Soba Education, Training& Examinations Centre, Soba University Hospital, University of Khartoum.



Figure 7 - Calibration station of the Mock Clinical MRCPC Examination (Soba Education, Training& Examinations Centre, Soba University Hospital, University of Khartoum). From left: Dr Abla Al Alfy (Egypt) and Prof Zein A Karrar (University of Khartoum).



Figure 8 - Venue: Soba Education, Training & Examinations Centre, Soba University Hospital, University of Khartoum (U of K). From left: Professor Sulafa Khalid (U of K), Dr Maha Abdel Moneim Elseed (Assistant Professor, U of K), Dr Ilham Mohammed Omer (Head, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, U of K), Dr Abla Al Alfy (MRCPCH Examiner, Egypt), Dr Inaam Nur Eldyme Mohammed (Associate Professor, U of K [standing], Dr Nagat Arafaat (MRCPCH Examiner, Egypt [sitting]).

A list of the first examiner -elects were chosen by the college. They attended the introductory course and applied for fellowship of the RCPCH to be potential future examiners and to pave the way for their younger colleagues .The list included senior paediatricians with expertise in running local MD OSCE examinations and professors in paediatrics and child health including ex-MRCP/FRCP holders who have been actively involved in undergraduate and postgraduate OSCEs for the last 10 years. The efforts of Professor John Gregory, UK, Professor Mohammed Ahmed Abdullah, Dr Hadi A.Almalik and Professor Salah Ahmed Ibrahim are to be commended again, as

without their help such a dream would not have been possible.

The provisional list of examiner -elects included:

1. Professor Abdelmoneim Elseed
2. Professor Mohamed Ahmed Abdullah.
3. Dr Mohamed Sir K Hashim.
4. Professor Ali Haboor
5. Professor Hassan Mohammed Ahmed
6. Professor Huda Haroon.
7. Professor Eisa Osman Elamin
8. Dr Alfatih Abu Zaid
9. Dr Osama Hafiz Elshazali
10. Professor Sulafa Khalid

11. Dr Ilham Mohammed Omer
12. Dr Abdel Moneim Alamin
13. Dr Ibrahim Gamar Al Dawla
14. Dr Eltigany Mohammed Ahmed Ali
15. Dr Inaam Nureldyme Mohammed
16. Dr Ahlam Abdel Rahman Hamed
17. Dr Maha Abdelmoneim Elseed
18. Dr Mohammed Khalil (Figure 6)[5,6]

The local faculty plans to run courses to prepare local candidates on communication skills, history taking,

developmental examination, and other needed clinical skills. We hereby salute the tremendous efforts of our senior professors and we highly value their extreme dedication for the welfare of children and paediatric services in Sudan. Our great thanks and appreciation go to the Soba University Hospital team (managers and clerical staff), the Staff of the Faculty of Medicine, U of K; and of course a big thank you for our patients, their families, our young doctors and nurses (role-players) for making it all possible (Figure 9).



Figure 9 - Venue: Soba Education, Training & Examinations Centre, Soba University Hospital, University of Khartoum (U of K). Group photo of the United Kingdom RCPCH faculty, local faculty, examiner-elects, and organizers of the Mock Clinical MRCPCH Examination, including pediatric specialists, registrars and younger graduates).

The organizing Committee of the MRCPCH Mock Clinical Exam at SETEC included:

1. Prof Salah Ahmed Ibrahim (the Local Host and Chief Organizer; Dean of Graduate College, U of K)
2. Dr Ahlam Adel Rahman Hamed (Chief Organizer of Venue; Associate Professor, U of K).
3. Dr Ilham Mohammed Omer (Associate Professor and Head, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, U of K)
4. Dr Abdel Moneim Alamin (Organizer of Logistics; Associate Professor, U of K)
5. Dr Maha Abdel Moneim Elseed (Organizer of Venue; Assistant Professor, U of K).
6. Dr Inaam Nur Eldyme Mohammed (Organizer of Venue; Associate Professor, U of K)
7. Dr Ali Elsir (Paediatric Specialist; Paediatric Neurology Unit, Soba University Hospital)
8. Dr Salwa Abdel Bagy (Paediatric Specialist, Gaafar Ibauf Children's Hospital)
9. Dr Mohammed Zain A Karrar (Paediatric Senior Registrar and Chief Organizer, Soba University Hospital)

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