



International Pathology Summer School in Egypt



Volunteers for the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPath) were:
Dr Charles van Heyningen, Chemical Pathologist, London
Dr Hesham ElDaly, Consultant Haematopathologist, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge
Dr Mona El-Bahrawy, Reader and Consultant Histopathologist, Imperial College, London.

Background.

An international pathology summer school was held in Cairo, Egypt, in July 2018, organised by:

- the Egyptian Committee for Pathology Training (ECPT)
- the Armed Forces College of Medicine in Cairo (AFCM)
- the Royal College of Pathologists.

It was attended by 80 undergraduate medical students from Egypt, Jordan and Pakistan. Three pathologists from the United Kingdom and others from Egypt, Sudan and Jordan volunteered to contribute to teaching.

Student objectives were to learn about:

- the importance of pathology and laboratory medicine
- the diverse range of pathology specialties
- developing a greater understanding about the skills required to become a clinical laboratory specialist.



Our contributions

We were invited to teach by the College, and given guidance on preparation.

Day 1: we gave presentations on tackling disease outbreaks, blood disorders, the biochemical basis of disease, cancer diagnosis and forensic pathology.

Day 2: debates were held on genetic testing and organ donation with contributions from local experts on genetics and transplantation. This was followed by an interactive pathology quiz that we had prepared based on our presentations from the day before.

Day 3: we judged the students' presentations on case study challenges that we had provided them with on the first day. At the end of the last day, the whole student audience interviewed us about the challenges in becoming a specialist in laboratory medicine.



Outcomes & benefits

The students were asked to share their thoughts on the school through an essay competition. The feedback was very positive and the winning entry was from a student who wrote:

'The summer school radically altered my view of medicine, pathology and my career as a whole. I would highly recommend this programme to every undergraduate student who still thinks twice about the importance and wealth of pathology. It is a life-changing experience that opens your eyes to the many opportunities awaiting you.'

The College is planning to expand the international pathology school next year and provide more volunteering opportunities for enthusiastic teachers.



As volunteers, we were delighted to have contributed to medical education and to raising awareness about pathology careers in this international collaboration in North Africa. We benefited by learning about international aspects of undergraduate medical education for students from various cultures.

Organisers from L-R: Prof. Ismail Matalka (International advisor MENA Region, RCPath), Major General Khaled Amer (Dean for AFCM), Zuzana Lescisinova (International Education Officer, RCPath), Dr Mona El-Bahrawy (President of the ECPT).