

INTERNATIONAL

Inaugural Ambassador Program in Cairo a success



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*Dr. Fatuma Faraj Some
Eldoret, Kenya*

Ready access to advanced gastrointestinal care does not exist in many developing countries. Likewise, the education and training of physicians in underserved countries provides a tremendous opportunity for ASGE to make a significant impact in these areas.

In 2009, the society introduced the Ambassador Program to export two of ASGE’s greatest assets – basic and advanced endoscopic medical care and training expertise. The ultimate goal of the program is to decrease illness and deaths in underserved populations from untreated digestive disorders.

February and March visits

Under the leadership of Jacques Van Dam, MD, PhD, FASGE, ASGE launched its first Ambassador program in February of this year in Cairo, Egypt. Five highly skilled ASGE-physician members volunteered their time and expertise to train and mentor 10 trainees at the Cairo Training Center. This Center is located within the Theodor Bilharz Research Institute and is accredited by the World Gastroenterology Organisation.

The one-week program covered numerous topics related to upper GI bleeding, one of the most common gastrointestinal afflictions facing developing nations in Africa today. The training consisted of an extensive curriculum, incorporating didactic sessions as well as hands-on training during which physicians and trainees treated patients in need. The curriculum included a discussion of infection control guidelines, utilizing the World Health Organization’s locally relevant guidelines.

“The ASGE ambassadors were proud to be a part of the inaugural program and after completing the training, we felt confident that it will help improve patient care throughout Africa and the Middle East,” said John M. DeWitt, MD, FASGE. “The trainees found the hands-on instruction invaluable.”

One of the trainees from Kenya, Dr. Fatuma Faraj Some, commented, “The training was quite comprehensive, and I learned a lot in a short time. I am looking forward to putting it all into practice. I feel privileged to have been a part of this program and hope that ASGE will continue (the program) so that many others can benefit as we have.”

Dr. Aderemi Omololu Oluyemi from Lagos, Nigeria, said, “I want to thank the Ambassadors for making themselves available us (trainees). The program was a huge benefit. In fact, you have re-launched my endoscopy career in an interventional sense.”



It takes a village! Pictured here are participants in the ASGE Ambassador Program, including ambassadors, trainees, governing board members of the Cairo Training Center and physicians from the Theodor Bilharz Research Institute.

ASGE Ambassadors

John M. DeWitt, MD, FASGE
Indiana University Medical Center
Indianapolis, Ind., USA

Ibrahim Mostafa, MD, FACG
Director, Cairo Training Center
Theodor Bilharz Research Institute
Cairo, Egypt

Mostafa Ibrahim, MD, MBA
Theodor Bilharz Research Institute
Cairo, Egypt

David H. Robbins, MD
Center for Advanced Endoscopy
Lenox Hill Hospital
New York, N.Y., USA

Virendra Singh, MD
Postgraduate Institute of Medical
Education and Research
Chandigarh, India

Trainees

Firoz Alimohamed, MD
Mombasa, Kenya

Trainees continued

Randa Zaki A. M. Khair, MD
Khartoum, Sudan

Emuobor Odeghe, MD
Lagos, Nigeria

Adeleye Olufunke, MD
Idiaraba, Lagos, Nigeria

Aderemi Omololu Oluyemi, MD
Marina, Lagos, Nigeria

Ahmed Omer Abaker
Ahmed Elnor, MD
Nyala, Sudan

Ali Abd El Rahim Ali, MSC
Giza, Egypt

Waleed Mohamed Soliman, MSC
Giza, Egypt

Fatuma Faraj Some, MD
Eldoret, Kenya

Abdulummini Yakubu, MD
Sokoto, Nigeria

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Dr. Ibrahim Mostafa (center, in front of poster) and ASGE 2009-10 President, Dr. Jacques Van Dam, (front, right), keep a watchful eye over a trainee using an endoscope.

A follow-up to the training course was conducted by 2009-10 ASGE President Jacques Van Dam, MD, PhD, FASGE, and Ibrahim Mostafa, MD, in late March to further observe four of the newly trained physicians and to assess the impact of the program. During the follow-up visit, Dr. Abdulmumini Yakubu thanked Dr. Van Dam and said that he “never had training like this in his home country of Nigeria and that the program surpassed his expectations.”

For more information on the ASGE Cairo Program, becoming an Ambassador or to contribute to future programs, click on [ASGE Ambassador Program](#) or contact ASGE directly at ambassadorprogram@asge.org or 630.573.0600.

This program was made possible with grant funding and equipment provided by ASGE industry partners Pentax Medical Systems, US Endoscopy and AstraZeneca Foundation.

ASGE Honorary Awards 2011

Call for nominations! Deadline: October 15

Each year, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) recognizes and presents awards to members who have contributed to the body of knowledge in our profession, to the betterment of our organization, and to society as a whole. Their accomplishments in practice, education, research, and/or training, have improved the quality and efficacy of the profession.

If you or a colleague deserve recognition by ASGE, please bring the name(s) forward for consideration. **ASGE award nominations will be accepted until October 15, 2010.** For a nomination form, please visit www.asge.org or contact Soncieray Jones at 630.570.5620 or sjones@asge.org.

ASGE is recognized as the premier specialty society dedicated to the education of physician members in the appropriate use of endoscopic techniques for the diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal diseases. Bring honor to the profession by submitting names of colleagues who deserve our highest praise. Honorees will be recognized during DDW® 2011 in Chicago, IL, at the ASGE Crystal Awards Dinner, to be held Sunday, May 8.

HONORARY AWARDS

Rudolf V. Schindler Award

ASGE's highest honor is granted periodically to a member whose accomplishments in endoscopic research, teaching, and/or service to ASGE exemplify the standards and traditions of Rudolf V. Schindler, MD, founder of the American Gastroscopic Club, the forerunner of ASGE.

Distinguished Educator Award

With this award, ASGE recognizes the contributions of physician educators and their involvement with trainee education, development, or participation in endoscopy seminars or national postgraduate courses, published scholarly reviews, or published educational materials, including videos.

Distinguished Service Award

This honor is presented to an individual who has made long-term contributions to GI endoscopy in the areas of equipment research and development, and is a strong supporter of the educational and research mission of the Society.

Master Endoscopist Award

This award recognizes clinicians who spend the majority of their time in patient care and are recognized regionally or nationally for their expertise and longitudinal contributions to the practice of GI endoscopy.

Distinguished Endoscopic Mentoring Award

This annual award recognizes outstanding career achievement by an ASGE member or fellow in the mentoring of faculty or gastroenterology trainees in clinical or lab-related endoscopic research. This distinguished award recognizes mentors who have devoted substantial time and effort to develop and nurture the next generation of endoscopic investigators.

International Service Award

This distinguished honor is presented to an international member who has served in a significant way to advance the mission of the Society in the international community.

