

Elective Opportunities in Lebanon: The Abouzahr Elective Scheme of Phoenicia (AESOP)

Dr. Ahmed Hankir; Yaacoub; Abouzahr

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Kamel Abouzahr. LMC is situated in the ancient Phoenician port of Sidon, the capital of South Lebanon.





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Stroke Prevention in Patients with
Atrial Fibrillation

Should Society Take Precedence Over Individuals and Do
Scientists Need More Autonomy In Our Modern NHS?

Abstracts from the International Academic & Research Conference

Follow-up Chest X-ray Following
Regression of Community Acquired Pneumonia

An Introduction to Cardiothoracic Surgery

Elective Opportunities in Lebanon

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Welcome	2
Table of contents	3
Stroke Prevention in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation Dr. Karen Au-Yeung, Dr. Mira Kharbanda	4-7
Follow-up Chest X-ray Following Regression of Community Acquired Pneumonia Dr. Karen Au-Yeung	8-9
Interview with Professor Ged Byrne: Consultant Oncoplastic Surgeon and Professor of Medical Education in Manchester Medical School Dr. Ahmed Hankir	10-12
World University Anatomy Challenge 2012: A Doctors Academy Event Mr. Gilbert Gravino	13
Fundamentals of Acute Wound Healing Mr Leslie Cheng	14-17
Abstracts from International Academic and Research Conference, 2011, Manchester, UK	18-81
Should Society Take Precedence Over Individuals and Do Scientists Need More Autonomy In Modern NHS? Dr. Stuart Enoch, Dr. Ahmed Hankir	82-86
The Portrayal of Mental Illness in Film and its Application as a Learning Tool in Medical Education Dr. Ahmed Hankir, Mrs. Mariam Albazi, Mr. Nam Tien Nguyen	87-90
Elective Opportunities in the Lebanon Dr. Ahmed Hankir, Mrs. Mariam Albazi	91-93
Elective Opportunities in Lebanon: The Abouzahr Elective Scheme of Phoenicia (AESOP). Dr. Ahmed Hankir	94-96
An Introduction to Cardiology Dr. Bridie O'Neill	97-98
An Introduction to Cardiothoracic Surgery Dr. Bridie O'Neill	99-100
Test Your Knowledge	101-102

Elective Opportunities in Lebanon: The Abouzahr Elective Scheme of Phoenicia (AESOP)

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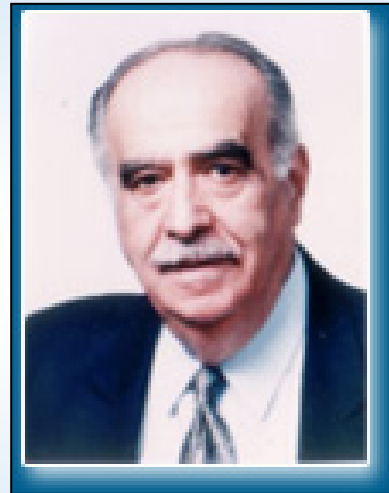
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Labib Medical Center (LMC): Introduction

Labib Medical Center (LMC) is one of the leading hospitals in the Middle-East founded in 1974 by the late Dr. Labib Kamel Abouzahr. LMC is situated in the ancient Phoenician port of Sidon, the capital of South Lebanon.

Dr Labib Abouzahr Sr

Basic Medical and Surgical Training: American University of Beirut 1943
Surgical Specialty Training: Fordham Hospital, New York, USA
Chief Surgeon and CEO of LMC
Lasting legacy to the present day for having transformed the landscape of medical services in the Lebanon



Dr Labib Abouzahr Sr

Through the unrelenting efforts of Dr. Abouzahr and with the assistance of an eclectic group of highly qualified internationally trained physicians LMC grew from a 52 bed hospital in 1974 to a 125 bed hospital at present. Despite the fact that the number of inpatient beds in LMC is relatively small the range of specialties that are available at LMC is as broad as that of any tertiary center in the United Kingdom (see below).

Professor Labib Abouzahr Jr (son of the late Dr. Labib Abouzahr senior) is the CEO and chief of staff incumbent of LMC. Students who wish to undertake AESOP will be under the tutelage of Professor Abouzahr, who has a long and illustrious career as a medical educationalist in Canada (see below).

Professor Labib Abouzahr Jr

- MD degree American University of Beirut
- Residency training in General Surgery and Cardio-Thoracic Surgery at the University of Toronto
- Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada (FRCSC) with certification in General Surgery (1994) & Cardiothoracic Surgery (1997)
- Attending surgeon at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre & Lecturer at the University of Toronto, 1998-9
- Assistant Clinical Professor, McMaster University & Hamilton Health Sciences, 1999-2005
- CEO & Chief-of-Staff at Labib Medical Center (2005-)
- Founder and Chief of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery unit at Clemenceau Medical Center (Affiliated with Johns Hopkins International) (2005-)
- Teaching awards (for teaching students & residents) from University of Toronto & the Canadian association of General Surgeons



Professor Labib Abouzahr Jr

Mr Mouin Abouzahr is a graduate of the prestigious American University of Beirut and is the Administrative Director of LMC. Mr Mouin is currently spearheading LMC's campaign to forge a Global Health partnership with a leading medical school in the United Kingdom.

Mr Hazem Badih FRCSi is a graduate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and consultant vascular surgeon. Mr Badih completed his specialist training in St Vincent's University Hospital in Ireland under the supervision of Professor Lord Ara Darzi. Mr Badih is also a potential supervisor medics on AESOP receive tutelage from.

The Abouzahr Elective Scheme of Phoenicia-AESOP

In keeping with LMC's mission statement of creating an environment that is conducive of education, the Abouzahr Elective Scheme of Phoenicia (AESOP) was launched in 2004 and has gone from strength to strength ever since its inception. AESOP was first conceived when I was in the Lebanon providing medical assistance to displaced, disenfranchised and destitute Palestinian patients in LMC.

After having been introduced to the CEO incumbent of LMC Professor Labib Abouzahr, arrangements were made to meet with him in Knightsbridge, London and it was during this meeting that I learnt a little more about the man behind the title. Professor Labib exudes serenity and panache and one cannot but feel a sense of calm when in

his presence. He is cultured, erudite and his vivacity for life is communicable (Indeed it is these very attributes that make Professor Abouzahr the ideal elective supervisor to have). It was during this lively meeting that Professor Abouzahr cordially invited medics to complete their elective placements in his hospital.

The AESOP scheme provides medical students and junior doctors with accommodation in the hospital premises, daily meals and sponsorship to international academic conferences in the dazzling capital of Lebanon, Beirut. To date, six Manchester medics have been on the elective scheme in Lebanon and the feedback that we have received has been exceptionally positive (as evidenced below).

AESOP is currently available only to medical students registered in UK medical schools however plans are underway to expand this global health initiative to involve medical students from other parts of the world. Flights from England to Lebanon are in the range of £350-£450 and a direct flight is approximately five hours in duration. LMC is situated in the city of Sidon which is a 45 minute drive away from Beirut. British citizens can obtain a visa in Beirut International Airport free of charge; citizens from other countries must contact the Lebanese Embassy for Visa enquiries. AESOP provides students with clinical placements for up to four weeks in the following specialties:

Anesthesiology
Cardiac Surgery
Cardiology
Colon & Rectal Surgery
Maxillo-Facial Surgery
Neurology
Oncology
Pathology
Radiology
Urology

Dermatology
Critical Care Medicine
General Surgery
Hematology
Neonatology
Neurosurgery
Ophthalmology
Pediatrics
Rheumatology
Vascular Surgery

Emergency Department
ENT
Gynecology
Infectious Diseases
Nephrology
Obstetrics
Orthopedic Surgery
Plastic Surgery
Thoracic Surgery

Qualitative Testimonial on the Elective Scheme in Lebanon

"We had such an amazing experience ... an NHS trained consultant paediatrician, spent most mornings providing us one-to-one teaching in his private clinic on common presentations in the neonate.. We also got to see rare conditions we had only ever read of, such as leishmaniasis

...However, we did not leave Lebanon without seeing the beauty and splendour of the country & people. Our hosts proved to be the most hospitable people we could have ever hoped for.

All in all, it was definitely a life changing experience, where I met people with the kindest of hearts & I owe a lot to the organisers for making the experience worthwhile!"

Dr Javeria Khan, CT1 Doctor

Conclusion

AESOP is ideal for those medics who wish to conduct their elective placements in the vibrant country of Lebanon however in a hospital that is outside the hustle and the bustle of Beirut. Despite the fact that LMC is not in the capital city, the services that are rendered and the facilities that are available contend with leading hospitals in Lebanon's largest city. The city of Sidon itself is peaceful yet there is always something to do be it paying a trip to the ancient Crusader Castle, or mingling with the natives in the interminable streets of the old souks. Add on top of that LMC's friendly and hospitable environment, AESOP is a learning opportunity medics really can't afford to miss.

In order to register your interest in AESOP or for any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me: ahmedzakaria@doctors.org.uk

LMC website: <http://www.labibmedicalcenter.com/>



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