

**APPENDIX 4: SSC 5c (Elective) Assessment - Reflection**

Name: Yasser Salim

Dates of elective: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013- 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013

Elective address: City Hospital, Dubai, UAE

Elective contact / Supervisor: Mr Z Sikafi

Contact address / Telephone / E-mail of elective placement: zsikafi@gmail.com

**Subject: Urology**

Was it what you expected?

I found this elective a hugely enjoyable and informative experience. It was what I expected from a world class facility. The staff were friendly and accommodating. They made me feel part of the team and involved me from the first day. My tutor was organised and explained to me his ideas of what outcomes he could provide and overlapped that with the experiences I was looking to gain out of the placement

Clinical experience?

Shadowing of Consultant Urologist which included ward rounds, theatre (observing only), and weekly multidisciplinary meetings. Specialised teaching sessions in Urology and General Surgery tailored to our objectives. History taking and clinical examination were the largest proportions of the practical clinical experience.

What did you learn about the people and the country?

The United Arab Emirates is a diverse and multicultural society with Expats from around the western world and beyond, as well as Arabs from all over the Middle East working and living in one of its biggest and most commercial cities, Dubai. About one tenth of the population are indigenous Emiratis. This gave me the opportunity to meet and interact with a wide variety of different people, most of which were friendly and polite. The metropolitan nature of the city meant the people were cosmopolitan, much the same way as the people of London are, however because of the large number of Arabic peoples I was able to meet and interact and discover many stories about the Arab world that I will keep with me for the rest of my life.

What did you learn about the health care professionals you worked with?

Private health care differs from the public; in that it is consultant led meaning there is no registrars and few juniors dealing with patients. I found that therefore the consultants generally had a more personal relationship with their patients as compared to in the NHS.

Clinical hands on experience were limited as we were not allowed to get involved in surgical procedures due to litigation reasons. Other than that we managed to cover all of the learning experiences we were looking to cover at the start of the elective.

Would you recommend it to another student?

I would most certainly recommend this to other students however would emphasise the difficulty in finding a placement there if you do not have contacts. I would also advise that if you are not an Arabic speaker you may find communicating with patients more difficult. Having said the there are plenty of English speakers in the UAE and this shouldn't limit you totally, if not only a little.

Would you do anything differently?

Given the opportunity I would like to experience some of the different and less well developed cities in the emirates for example the Emirate Fujarah and the Emirate Um al Qumain. These are far less developed parts of the UAE and it would have been interesting to see whether their health care was affected by this.

What did you learn about yourself?

I found the experience fulfilling and enjoyable. I learnt that I would be able to live in a different country for at long period of time and cope reasonably well. However I also found the unfamiliarity of different systems more challenging and sometimes found myself lost and confused about certain aspects of the way of life that are alien to someone who has lived in the UK for their entire life. I was however much helped by my good friend who helped me and introduced me to many of the customs and traditions the locals and expats have known for many years

Where there any deviations from the risk assessment?

No there were not any issues.

How was your accommodation?

Living with my friend from medical school in their family home in Dubai meant that I had no issues with accommodation or food.

How were your travel arrangements?

Travel arrangements were straightforward with economy flights and travel in Dubai as standard. Dubai has a good and developed system of public transport with a wide spreading tram and buses as well as cheap taxis if needs be. We used the family car when needed