

# CADUCEUS comes to Dr Jones and Partners Adelaide

Akram Dakhil

My name is Akram Dakhil, I am a radiologist, having completed my training in general radiology and passing the Danish Board last year [2007]. I am now working at Køge Hospital, University of Copenhagen.

One of my great wishes has always been to specialise in ultrasound, especially the musculoskeletal (MSK) aspect and that's why I applied for the CADUCEUS scholarship.

I knew from colleagues that MSK ultrasound was very advanced in Australia and this scholarship presented a great chance for me to learn.

With the assistance of ASUM Chief Executive Officer Dr Caroline Hong I was able to stay for a few weeks at The Musculoskeletal Centre of Excellence, Dr Jones and Partners, Adelaide, where I had the opportunity to follow Dr Neil Simmons.

Shortly before my trip to Australia, I had read four abstracts in the ASUM *Ultrasound Bulletin* presented by Dr Simmons to the ASUM meeting in Cairns last year. I was very excited to meet him and I knew a little bit about the centre from our correspondence and I was very enthusiastic to learn more about musculoskeletal ultrasonography.

After a 30-hour plus trip from Copenhagen to Adelaide, I landed with my pregnant wife and 7-month-old daughter. Guess what happened? Delayed luggage! We only had our winter clothes on from freezing Denmark which were quite unsuitable for a hot 35°C Adelaide.

However, despite the missing luggage, I felt very welcome from the day one at the centre and luckily we got the luggage after four days.

The Musculoskeletal Centre is equipped with four ultrasound machines, three of them perform MSKUS and the other one is for general US. An average of 30 MSKUS patients a day were seen and about 45% of patients have ultrasound guided injections. The sonographers are extremely skilled at MSKUS and usually have one trainee with them who requires more supervision. The centre also has one digital x-ray machine. Nuclear medicine is situated in the same rooms but this is performed by



Dr Akram Dakhil made a lot of new friends during his Adelaide stay with CADUCEUS.

physicians from elsewhere.

Sonographers do the scanning, take standard scanning pictures and extra pictures if there is pathology. Afterward, they present the patients' images to the radiologist, who reviews the pictures again.

In cases where ultrasound guided injection is needed, the radiologist is called in. At the end of an ultrasound examination, the ultrasound report is written by the radiologist not the sonographer, which is quite different from what we do in Denmark.

As far as I know, there are few places in Denmark with sonographers, who are either registered nurses or radiographers. At home, sonographers scan patients and write the report as well.

To be a sonographer in Australia requires two years of post-graduate education after finishing basic radiographic training. In contrast, in Denmark we don't have a school that qualifies sonographers and I believe that we have to consider the Australian way of educating sonographers. A better-educated sonographer workforce in Denmark will give us the possibility to scan more patients and leave us better able to respond to the growing numbers of examination requests.

In the period of January–February, 2008 I followed a training program devised by Dr Neil Simmons. Initially, I started sitting in with experienced sonographers, learning scanning techniques and protocols. Gradually, I was

able to scan patients and present the scans to Dr Simmons.

Afterwards, I followed Dr Simmons and Dr Steve Zadow and saw a huge variety of pathologies, many interesting cases and injection techniques. Part of the training program consisted of me being taken through Dr Simmons' many power point presentations on MSKUS.

My short stay at The Musculoskeletal Centre gave me not only knowledge but also many ideas. The pleasant working atmosphere and good relationships between the staff made my stay an experience of a lifetime.

During our lunch breaks we took time to learn a little bit about each other and at the end I felt that I have left a lot of friends in Adelaide.

I'm sure that I would like to come back again to see my friends and to visit my stillborn baby who died and was buried in Adelaide. I would like to thank all the staff at the centre and especially Dr Neil Simmon, Dr Steve Zadow, Rosemary, Josie, Pat, Lucy, Voula, Sue, Jenny, Peter, Andrew and Frank. I would like to send thanks also to Dr Caroline Hong, DUDS and EFSUMB President Christian Nolsøe and BK-Medical for the great help and support to my CADUCEUS scholarship.

One of the things I learned from Dr Simmons that I am sure will colour my future professional life is that "MUSKUS is stimulating, constantly challenging, clinically relevant and above all, fun!"

