

Hello Dr. Noyek. **CISEPO** family and the new **IPEME** students,

Greetings!

Thank you Dr. Noyek and **CISEPO** family for the opportunity you gave me to share my humble experience with the young doctors and medical students who are joining **CISEPO** now for this outstanding summer elective course. I am glad that they all were able to make it this time without troubles or delay. I hope that they find my little story inspiring and encouraging to them to keep the hard work till they make their dreams come true.

When I got invited to attend the pediatric course in Ontario in 2003, I was so excited but at the same time I was reluctant since I didn't understand the goals, the mission details, and spectrum of activities that we will do. It was my first trip out of Palestine to meet with people from neighbor and overseas countries. Now 12 years after that landmark trip in my life, I recognize how great that moment was when I decided to go to Canada. That period of my life when I did my Elective pediatric course (in Pediatric Oncology and Psychological impact of Cancer on children and their families) was really a critical and a valuable one.

I went to the medical school in Palestine in 1997 because I felt that I can help my people since we have a great shortage in the medical services and specialties. I worked hard to be accepted in the medical school and I did eventually achieve that goal. During my medical school I found it very challenging for me as a Palestinian medical student to travel outside the country to do clinical research in a good international center or to do an observership to improve my clinical skills in fields that we are not well trained in, but thankfully **CISEPO** course opened this window for me.

When I joined **CISEPO** pediatric course many things changed dramatically in my personal and professional life and I would like to highlight some of these aspects:

- **CISEPO** group was so kind to help me in different aspects during my academic years and they offered all the support they can and that I needed.
- **CISEPO** course shaped my inter-personal communication manners and improved my English speaking skills both in writing and conversation.
- I learned the basic concepts of literatures review for the first time and I had the chance to write 2 papers/ presentations about the Psychological aspects of Cancer diagnosis on children and mini review about Retinoblastoma cancer. Those 2 presentations showed in my CV when I applied to the residency in US and attracted the faculty members.
- Dr. Noyek kindly wrote on behalf of me an outstanding letter of recommendation to the programs that I applied to in the US which was really well respected and highly appreciated.
- Finding new friends from different cultures and countries and sharing my knowledge, breaking the ice by meeting with new Israeli neighbors and medical students who share with me the same dream in a peaceful and stable area (*we still keep this friendship with some till now), I was able to share my concerns and experiences about many political and academic concerns that Palestinian medical students feel.

I finished my training in Internal Medicine from Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University in 2009 and I was awarded the intern of the year and then the resident of the year twice then I was selected to be the co-chief in my third year and was a clinical instructor for Brown university medical students during their Sub-Intern IM clerkships.

When I decided to do my fellowship training in Cardiology, Dr. Noyek gave me key point advices and he introduced me to **Dr. Shukri David**, who was very supportive, outstanding mentor and a well-respected physician in Providence hospital as well as in St. John health network in Detroit-Michigan....

Dr. David gave me a great opportunity to do an elective cardiology rotation in his cardiology department; I put every single minute and effort in this opportunity. I was interviewed in the same place and ended up matching in that place. I should attribute this success to the exceptional efforts that Dr. David and Dr. Noyek support and commitment to help me achieving my dreams. Being the chief Cardiology fellow in my last year of fellowship training consolidated my clinical teaching and research skills, I was able to present in Cardiology field more than 80 lectures/seminars to my junior fellows, IM residents and FM residents and medical students from Wayne state University, AUC university and Ross university and many others. Now, after 3 years in Cardiology training, I have just graduated last month as an Invasive Cardiologist and moved to Kansas to start my job with KMC in few days.

During my last 3 years in training in Cardiology I was able humbly to achieve these goals:

- To be the 1st Palestinian graduate from Al Quds university to finish a specialty in Cardiology in US
- Board certified in Internal Medicine
- Board certified in Echocardiography - ASE
- Board certified in Vascular Medicine - RPVI
- Board certified in Nuclear Cardiology
- Certified in Pacemaker and ICD implant through Heart Rhythm Society
- Sitting for General Cardiology Board this Oct
- Sitting for Cardiac CT (COCAT) board in June
- Published or presented more than 40 papers and posters in the last 6 years in national and international conferences and meetings.

A message to the students: Good luck in your summer course! Enjoy, learn, have fun and use the maximum out of this opportunity! I am personally always available to answer questions, give instruction and guide about training in US, and mentor future physicians as time allows. My contacts are below!

Sincerely, Yours

Ahmad Daraghmeh. DM
Invasive Cardiologist
Kansas Medical Center and Cypress Heart Clinics
Wichita – Kansas. US
ahmadhaza@yahoo.com
Cell: 4015271026

