

Mentorship is Essential to Build Capacity for Pediatric Endocrinology in Low-Income Countries:

Experience of an Exchange between Sudan & Haiti

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Introduction

- In many low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) including Haiti, there are no trained pediatric endocrinologists in-country.
- Further, resources allocated for health are scarce and have to be utilized optimally.
- Local advocacy may positively impact health care by raising awareness of stake holders such as:
 - National civil societies
 - Government and Ministry of Health
 - Charitable organizations
 - Individuals
 - World Health Organization
 - International professional societies dealing with diabetes in endocrine diseases
- Prof. MA Abdullah is a Sudanese pediatric endocrinologist trained in the UK who has successfully built a national pediatric endocrinology network that now provides health care to over 4000 children. He is internationally recognized for his accomplishments.

Objectives

- To meet Prof. Abdullah and his team, and learn from the Sudanese experience in order to apply them back in Haiti following my own fellowship at McGill:
 - To exchange knowledge, experiences and clinical approaches prioritizing efficient use of resources
 - To learn how to mobilize resources to build the first referral center for pediatric endocrinology,
 - To learn how to incorporate academic clinical and research training in pediatric endocrinology into the pediatric resident curriculum in Haiti.



Picture 1: Presentation on the Haitian medical system to Sudanese residents in endocrinology



Picture 2: Sudan Childhood Diabetes Centre Khartoum, Sudan's first childhood diabetes center, inaugurated in 2019



Picture 3: From left to right: Myself with Prof. Jean Pierre Chanoine (Head, Division of Pediatric Endocrinology, BC Children's Hospital) Prof. Abdullah Mohamed

Activities

- Presentation
- Clinical meetings
- Conversations and sharing of experiences with Pr Abdullah and Sudanese endocrinology residents

Conclusions

- If there is a vision, will and advocacy, there are many things we can achieve.
- Pediatric endocrinology is a field where everything is yet to be built in Haiti - sometimes it takes the vision of one person for things to start to move.

Impact on my future career plans

- I aim to build an academic program in Haiti – I have learned that this is the best way to build an efficient, sustainable, innovative and thriving clinical department.

Acknowledgments



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