

Feedback Observership Dr Romeih, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust from 8 Nov till 2 Dec 2016

I was awarded the overseas cardiology visiting scheme in 2016. I visited the adult congenital heart unit at the Leeds General Infirmary. My sponsor was Ms Carin van Doorn, Clinical Lead and consultant cardiac surgeon, in collaboration with Dr Kate English, Clinical lead and consultant GUCH cardiologist. It was a very successful visit and I have enjoyed it. I would like to share my experience with you.

1- The Process of visa application and any advice she will give to future applicants from overseas.

The process of visa application is easy and the all required steps are mentioned in a clear way on the website <https://www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa>. Approximately you get the visa within 15 days after the application. You don't have to bring any personal photos as they will get a photo for you at the visa application centre. If you would prefer to have your documents delivered back to you by post, you have to mention that in advance online while you book an appointment, it is not possible to do that at the visa application centre.

2- Her experience during her stay in Leeds and how it helped her personal development etc

It was really a fruitful experience. Having a scheduled flights and appropriate accommodation in Leeds helped me to settle down in a very short time. The proper pre-planning, by the UK supervisor and the hosting team in Leeds, set clear learning objectives. A rotation with exposure through different areas of the adult congenital cardiac unit (incl out-patients, MDT, imaging, ward, cardiac liaison nurses) was planned in a very effective way. Attending the BCCA annual meeting gave a close look on CHD management in UK. The hosting team in Leeds was very cooperative and helpful.

3- Any proposal to improve this scheme.

- 1- Prolong the grant period for at least 4 weeks (instead of 3 weeks).
- 2- Have a short research/audit project that can be performed during the grant period.

4- Comments by the UK sponsor and work involved to support this scheme (one paragraph at the end)

Dr Soha Romeih, consultant cardiologist from the Aswan Heart Centre, Egypt, came to Leeds to observe the management of adult patients with congenital heart disease, a speciality that is still in its infancy in her own country. The programme for the visit aimed to cover a wide exposure to this practice. It was a pleasure to have her in our department. The funding for the fellowship was adequate to cover the costs for travel, stay and living expenses. Since her return to Egypt, Dr Romeih has been building on a GUCH department in Aswan, incl the establishment of a database, expansion of outpatient clinics, dedicated practice nurse and recruitment of cardiology fellows.