

The Short course on Abdominal Ultrasound in Tropical Medicine, Pavia, Italy

A most commendable Training Program

From April 30 to May 04, 2007, I was privileged to attend the Short course on Abdominal Ultrasound at the University of Pavia, Division of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, Italy.

The program which was co-sponsored by the World Health Organization and the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, is a most commendable one. It provided the rare opportunity for intensive teaching and training in Ultrasound for Developing country health workers- Doctors, Laboratory scientists, Nurses, and Midwives in attendance. There were also colleagues from the developed economies who are interested in Tropical medicine.

The course co-ordinator, Dr Enrico Brunetti and his select team of experienced Ultrasound teachers from Italy, Germany, U.K, Switzerland, and Romania - Rosie Conlon, Sabine Mand, Joachim Richter, Carlo Filice, Carmen Cretu, Chiara DeBernardis, stretched themselves each day from 08:30 to 19:00 to teach so much in so short a time, to the eager participants.

For many years I desired to acquire skills in Ultrasound use but it meant leaving my job and enrolling in a University in Nigeria where I come from. Overseas training cost is quite prohibitive, but this short course has provided the solution. I am recommending it to every medical practitioner from countries where the opportunity is lacking.

In so short a time, due to the practical hands-on every morning, I was able to identify and appreciate different pathologies in the Liver, Kidneys, Spleen, and the diagnostic use of ultrasound in many tropical diseases – Echinococcosis, Lymphatic Filariasis and Onchocerciasis, Schistosomiasis, as well as in HIV.

To the sponsors and teachers it is all thanks; and to my fellow participants I say put the knowledge to good use through practice; and please spread the word! Others need the opportunity!

Thank you.

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