



University Hospitals Birmingham
NHS Foundation Trust



BIRMINGHAM NEUROSCIENCE CENTRE

Mr Georgios Tsermoulas
Consultant Neurosurgeon
Honorary Clinical Associate Professor
Tel: +44 121 371 6854
Fax: +44 121 371 6895
Email: geogios.tsermoulas@nhs.net

Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TH

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Report by George Tsermoulas on the observership of Dr Jihad Hasanin in May/ June 2023.

Dr Hasanin is a senior trainee at the European Gaza Hospital. He spent a 4-week observership that started on Wednesday 24th May, under my supervision at the Neurosurgical Department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham.

Dr Hasanin agreed for me to write this short report on his behalf, because he is unable to do so under the current situation in Gaza.

I know Dr Hasanin for many years, since the beginning of the project that the UK charity "Medical Aid for Palestinians" launched for the development of the neurosurgical services in Gaza. This observership was in the same context of helping local neurosurgeons in their training and development. The observership was funded and supported by MAP, alongside the SBNS bursary.

During his stay with us in Birmingham, Dr Hasanin observed all aspects of the working of a busy neurosurgical unit. He joined the ward rounds, outpatient clinics, operating theatres and the departmental academic meetings on Friday afternoon (journal club, M&M). He was exposed to a large number of learning opportunities both within cranial and spinal neurosurgery and he shadowed his peers, including during on-calls. Dr Hasanin demonstrated a strong determination to learn and develop and I believe that during his stay he achieved his objectives of enhancing his professional skills and knowledge in a variety of neurosurgical conditions.

Dr Hasanin also attended the "4th Cranial Cadaveric Dissection Course" at the anatomy lab of Keele University on Friday 2nd June alongside the West Midlands neurosurgical trainees. He enhanced his knowledge of skull base anatomy, practiced microsurgical and endoscopic skills, and performed cadaveric dissections for skull base approaches (orbitozygomatic, retrosigmoid, transpetrous and endoscopic transsphenoidal).

Dr Hasanin also had a pleasant stay in the UK. He experienced the British culture, visited friends in London, and enjoyed a short break away from home.

Under normal circumstances, I would wish him good luck with the completion of his training, but in the current situation I hope that he, along with the local neurosurgical community stay safe and strong and continue to support the population of Gaza during these difficult times.

Mr Georgios Tsermoulas
Consultant Neurosurgeon and Honorary Clinical Associate Professor