

Report of the 10th Biennial conference of Pan African Pediatric Surgical Association, in collaboration with 28th annual meeting of the Egyptian Pediatric Surgical Association

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This report highlights the 10th Biennial Conference of Pan African Pediatric Surgical Association (PAPSA), in collaboration with 28th annual meeting of the Egyptian Pediatric Surgical Association (EPSA), held at Semiramis Intercontinental, Cairo, Egypt, 12–14 November 2014, and the three pregress workshops held in Cairo University Children's Hospital from 9 to 11 November 2014. *Ann Pediatr Surg* 11:61–64 © 2015 Annals of Pediatric Surgery.

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The 10th Biennial conference of Pan African Pediatric Surgical Association (PAPSA), in collaboration with 28th annual meeting of the Egyptian Pediatric Surgical Association (EPSA), was held from 12 November 2014 to 14 November 2014, in Cairo, Egypt. The venue was the Semiramis Intercontinental at the bank of River Nile close to the world renowned 'Tahrir Square', Egyptian Museum and many other attractions. The congress was the largest attended PAPSA meetings. There were well over 300 delegates, from 27 African and non-African countries (Fig. 1).

The congress was preceded by three workshops. The management of patients with disorders of sex development workshop was held in Cairo University Children's Hospital from 9 November 2014 to 11 November 2014. Professor Gamal Eltagy, Chief of Pediatric Surgery at Cairo University, and his team have prepared more than 20 patients with various types of disorders of sex development. The program of the workshop included many case presentations, video presentation, panel discussion, in addition to live surgery, which was elegantly demonstrated by Professor Alaa El-Ghoneimi, from Paris, France, and Supul Hennayake, from Manchester, UK.

The second workshop on minimally invasive surgery in children was also held in Cairo University Children's Hospital, in collaboration with the Middle East chapter of IPEG celebrating its first activity, from 10 November to 11 November. Thanks to Dr Mohamed Elbarbary, Professor Pediatric Surgery at Cairo University, and his team for the excellent organization and simultaneous live surgery transmission from several operating rooms. The live surgery included both routine as well as many challenging cases conducted by some of the world renowned International MIS Faculty: George W. Holcomb, Kansas City, Missouri, USA; Juan Carlos De Agustín, Madrid, Spain; Munther Hadad, London, UK; Sean Marven, Sheffield, UK; Abdalla Zarroug, Mayo

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Clinic, Rochester, USA, in addition to some national faculty staff.

The third pregress workshop 'Greenwood neonatal surgical skills course' sponsored by the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons was held in the Learning Resource Centre at Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University on 11 November 2014. Five course instructors from British Association of Paediatric Surgeons (Tony Lander, Kokila Lakhoo, Niyi Ade-Ajayi, Ashish Minocha, Sonia Basson), in addition to seven Faculty staff from EPSA (Tarek Hassan, Ahmed Medhat Zaky, Omar Mansour, Mohamed Fahmy, Sherif Kadah, Akram Elbatarny, Khaled Ashour) conducted this course very successfully. A total of 74 young trainees in Pediatric Surgery participated in this course. Professor Hesham Elsaket, Director of Learning Resource Centre, is credited for the excellent local organization (Figs 2 and 3).

The scientific committee selected 27 full length, 71 short oral presentations, and 11 presentations for 'Alaa Hamza young investigator's prize', 16 oral presentation for Wael Moustafa best poster prize, and 31 walk on static posters. The competition was tough this year; two candidates shared the 'Alaa Hamza young investigator's prize': Dr Nasser Kakembo, from Kampala, Uganda, for a presentation on 'Burden of anorectal malformations and Hirschsprung's disease: Insights from a prospective database at a tertiary center'; and Dr Mohammed Abdel Latif Ayad from Ain Shams, Egypt, for his clinical research on 'Simple antireflux technique for the cologastric anastomosis: complementary step in retrosternal colon interposition procedure'. The winner of 'Wael Moustafa best poster prize' was Yousuf Aziz Khan, from Kuwait, for his poster 'Eyes Cannot See What Mind Doesn't Know – An Intraluminal Gossypiboma'. In addition to the financial award, Professor George Holcomb donated three free copies of the latest edition of 'Ashcraft's Pediatric Surgery' to the three winners.

Fig. 1



Group photo of some of the delegates after the final session of 2014 PAPSA/EPSA congress. EPSA, Egyptian Pediatric Surgical Association; PAPSA, Pan African Pediatric Surgical Association.

Fig. 2



Instructors of the BAPS Greenwood neonatal surgical skills course, LRC, Cairo University, 11 November 2014. BAPS, British Association of Paediatric Surgeons; LRC, Learning Resource Centre.

The scientific program included three panel discussion with very energetic moderators and expert panelists. The first panel ‘Pediatric Surgery Training in Africa’ was moderated by Professor Osama Elnggar, from Ain Shams, Egypt, and included six panelists from various geographic regions in Africa: Heinz Rode (Cape Town, South Africa),

Afua Hesse (Accra, Ghana), Petronilla Nigoulli (Tanzania), Dan Poenaru (Nairobi, Kenya), Francis Uba (Nigeria), and Souhail Alouni (Tunis). The moderator and panelists discussed the current challenges and suggestions for improvement of pediatric surgery training in Africa.

Fig. 3



Trainees who participated at the BAPS Greenwood neonatal surgical skills course, LRC, Cairo University, 11 November 2014. BAPS, British Association of Paediatric Surgeons; LRC, Learning Resource Centre.

Fig. 4



PAPSA executive council. PAPSA, Pan African Pediatric Surgical Association.

The second panel addressed very interesting topic 'Incidental Findings in Pediatric Surgery' such as asymptomatic gall stones and Meckel's diverticulum in children. The session was moderated by Ali Shalaby and included five expert panelists: Sameh Abd Elhay, Maged Ismael, Tarek Gobran, Mohamed Elbarbary, and Alp Numanoglo.

The third panel on 'Haemangioma and vascular Malformations' was moderated by Hesham Abd Elkader and included Osama Elnagar, Mamdouh Abou Elhassan, Mohamed Shaker, and Eman Ragb representing expert panelists from various related specialties including vascular imaging, plastic surgery, etc.

The 2014 Honorary EPSA membership lecture titled 'What is Evidence Based Medicine and Why Do We Need It?' was an entertaining and authoritative presentation. It was presented by Professor George W. Holcomb, Kansas City, Missouri, USA, who was nominated for 2014 EPSA honorary membership, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to global pediatric surgery and to EPSA in particular.

Heinz Rode PAPSA lecture has become one of the highlights of PAPSA meetings. The lecture was proposed in recognition of Professor Heinz Rode, who is considered the 'God Father of PAPSA'. The inaugural Heinz Rode lecture was presented by David Drake in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 2010. The second lecture was presented by Richard Aziz Khan in Cape Town, South Africa, 2012. This year, the lecture titled 'Surgery of Cloacas: the

pitfalls' was given by Professor Jean Michel Guys, from Marseilles, France.

The scientific program was enriched by other eight invited guest lecturers: Professor Alaa El-Ghoneimi, from Paris, France; Professor Juan Carlos De Agustín, Madrid, Spain; Kokila Lakhoo, Oxford, UK; Professor Aayed Alqahtani, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Dr Enaam Raboei, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Professor Alp Numanoglo, Cape Town, South Africa; Sean Marven, Sheffield, UK; and Abdalla Zarroug, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, New York, USA. These guest lecturers presented a review of the current practice in pediatric surgery.

The General Assembly meeting of PAPSA was held on the first day of the congress, and the GAM of EPSA was held on the second day. Three meetings of the executive council of PAPSA were held daily 1 h before scientific program. Several issues and plans for future were discussed thoroughly in these meetings (Fig. 4).

A memorable gala dinner was conducted on a moving Nile cruise. At the gala dinner, Professor Heinz Rode gave a brief talk on the past, present, and future of PAPSA. Professor Petronilla Ngiloi handed over the PAPSA presidency to Professor Essam Elhalaby. The venue of the next PAPSA meetings was announced to be in Nigeria in 2016, and in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2018.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.