



Rabat Training Center - WGO Info Package

Name: WGO Rabat Training Center (WGO-RTC)

Location: Rabat, Morocco

Center Director: Professor Naïma Amrani

Introduction:

The WGO-RTC was founded in 2002 from an agreement between the World Gastroenterology Organization (WGO) and the Ministry of Higher Education in Morocco (MoHE) to launch a truly unique training Centre in the area (see : <http://wgo-rtc.um5s.ac.ma>)

WGO-RTC is one of the oldest training Center over the world committed to promoting the highest standards in hepatology-gastroenterology, hand on training and education.

It is an International Center open to All French speaking Gastroenterologists mainly from Africa who wish to improve their theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of hepatology, gastroenterology, proctology and digestive oncology.

Since its establishment in January 2003, the WGO-RTC provides training sessions ranging from ten days annual courses to internships of 5 years.

The educational programme, which has been validated by different partners, is composed of theoretical courses and hands-on training for each module.

The priority is on practical training, with ultrasound and endoscopy techniques, for both diagnostic and therapeutic purposes. The various tutorials available provide the opportunity to have a personalized educational programme, which can go from training on mechanical or computerized (symbionix) simulators, to the acquisition of various endoscopic procedures on pork stomachs (EASIE models).

For attendees already familiar with endoscopy, we decided, in light of our first experiences, to replace live-transmission from the hospital by a companionship programme so that small groups of trainees can work with experts.

Our media center, which is continually evolving, provides our trainees with electronic documents selected according to their didactic character.

Interactive teaching plays an important role, including practical workshops and presentations of clinical cases. With the acquisition of videoconference equipment in 2006, telemedicine has been our hobbyhorse with the aim of giving gastroenterologists from other countries the opportunity to benefit from these courses.

To minimize isolation of francophone trainees from international expertise and meetings due to the constraints of language, the WGO-RTC organizes simultaneous translation into French, allowing first hand contact trainees with experts from over the world.





Main Objectives / mission:

- To promote the highest quality in training in gastroenterology and hepatology
- To promote the best practice guidelines for practice in endoscopy.
- To develop a training program with recent advances in gastroenterology.
- To provide modern learning tools to trainees.
- To promote exchanges and contacts with experts.
- To become a training center for trainers.
- To play a leadership role for the specialty in the region.

Facilities:

WGO-RTC is part of the Mohamed V-Souissi University in Rabat

It is located at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy Rabat, near the Academic Hospital Ibn Sina. (see www.centreamge-rabat.org)

1- The Centre has its own sites composed of the following:

- One conference room equipped with technology for video conferencing and a simultaneous translation booth
- Four rooms designed for workshops and for assisted training on simulators
- One room for training on animal models
- One multimedia library equipped with e-learning documents and DVD's collection
- One cafe-restaurant, also used for "lunch meetings" to meet the experts.



The location of the site allows WGO-RTC to benefit from logistical and equipment support from the University and from the Ibn Sina Hospital.

1- The hospital allows trainees to use:

- Two ultrasound machines (Siemens and Hitachi)
- A FibroScan machine
- Two functional exploration units (Sandhill and MMS) equipped for high and low manometry, pH-metry and pH-impedancemetry and recently the high resolution esophageal manometry
- Endoscopic columns: Olympus (CV 240 and CV 260 SL), Fujinon (XL 401) and Pentax (EPK 700)
- Endoscopic Ultra Sound machine (Pentax / Hitachi)
- Equipment for endoscopic video capsule (Given Imaging station)

Areas of Training:

- Diagnostic & therapeutic endoscopy
- Ultra Sonography
- Endoscopic Ultra Sound (EUS)
- Proctology
- Motility & pH-Impedancemetry
- Liver Elastometry / FibrosScan



Training Offered at the Rabat Training Center:

WGO-RTC provides two kinds of training:

The center organizes 10-15-day Annual Training Courses for groups of about 55 gastroenterologists (45 to 85) on a regular basis, representing to date more than 1000 trainees.

It also gives African trainees the opportunity to stay for longer periods: from few months to four or five years. **WGO-RTC claims the privilege of providing some African countries with their first gastroenterologist.**

1- Long Term Training Programme

Longer training periods range from 6 months to 5 years. The training consists of theoretical classes and practical training in the specific gestures and techniques particular to endoscopy sonography and motility. The teaching of imagery and endoscopy techniques, both diagnostic and therapeutic, are performed on a mannequin, as well as on a computerized simulator (Simnionix), on animal models (EASIE models – Erlangen Active Simulator for Interventional Endoscopy) and at the hospital to practice various endoscopic techniques.

For programmes of less than one year, trainees are provided with a certificate from the dean of the university.

For long-term programmes (up to 5 years), the specialty degree is validated by a theoretical and practical exam, as it would be for Moroccan candidates. The Moroccan Ministry then approves the Diploma in Gastroenterology.

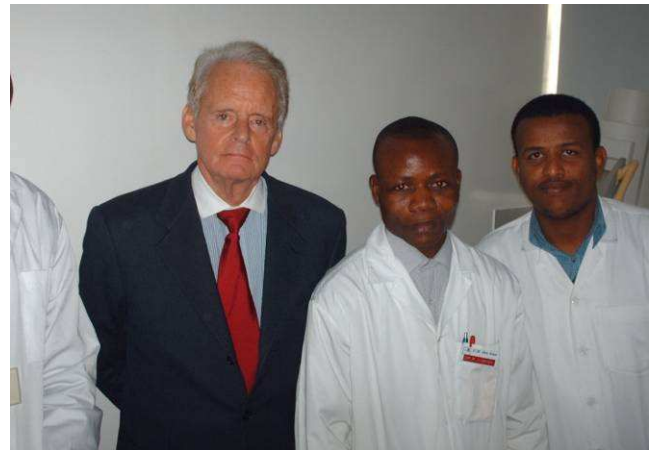
9 trainees have already completed their training since 2010 to date:



- Training for up to 5 years

1/ Rodolph VIGNON
from Benin (2005 – 2010)

He has completed his training in October 2010 and returned to Benin as gastroenterologist. His specialty degree was validated by a theoretical and practical exam, as for Moroccan candidates. The Moroccan Ministry approved his diploma in gastroenterology. He is working in Benin as a gastroenterologist.



2/ Galab MAHMOUD
from Djibouti (2006 – 2011)

WGO-RTC claims the privilege to offer to Djibouti its first gastroenterologist

3/ Enam SOBKENG from Cameroon
(2010 – 2011)

4/ Khadijatou SAKE
from Benin (2007 – 2012)



- Training for up to one year:

5/ Younès WASSIM
from Ivory Coast
Training from January 2004 to November 2005

6/ Claudine ANYINIFA BIOVINE
from TOGO
Training in Diagnostic endoscopy, from January to December 2005

7/ Nathalie BOUA AKELELO
from Central African Republic
Training from January to October 2010

8/ Georges SERVICE
from Central African Republic
Training from January to October 2010

9/ Mohamed Lemine OULD ABBE
from Mauritania (2011 - 2012)
He came for one year training in endoscopy,
especially colonoscopy and polypectomy...



WGO-RTC has currently, two doctors from sub-Saharan Africa, for a training in Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Ultrasonography, Endoscopy and proctology.

1/ Ghislaine NGATCHA
From Cameroon (2009 – 2014)

She obtained her Diploma on November 2013,
She participated at the 13th Annual Course of
WGO-RTC and will go back to her Country as
a gastroenterologist in few weeks

2/ Martin SOPKON
from Benin (2012-2016).



Regulatory Requirements:

Health insurance is required for long-term training only.

2- Short Training programme

Up to 2 annual courses are offered, with a minimum of 50 participants per course.
To date, WGO-RTC organized 13 annual courses for more than 1000 doctors coming from
28 Countries :

Afghanistan, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Chad, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Emirates, Gabon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Palestine, Republic Democratic of Congo, Senegal, Syria, Tanzania, Togo and Tunisia

Faculty members and Staff:

The number of trainers, for each annual course, varies between 15 and 20. It depends on the programme being offered.

We receive one or two faculty members from each partner society at each session, depending on the programme and topics

Experts recognized worldwide for their competence and teaching skills run all sessions. They come from Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italia, Libya, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, Senegal, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey and Uruguay.

Global programme

The educational program of each Course is validated by the scientific programs Committee of WGO-RTC. It includes :

- International Course on Advances in Hepatology, Gastroenterology, Digestive Oncology and Practical Proctology
- workshop of clinical cases
- hands-on training for each module

(see the daily program at : <http://wgo-rtc.um5s.ac.ma>)

The first three days are devoted to hepatology, one day to digestive cancer, one day to proctology, the remaining days to gastroenterology including practical ultrasound training and several endoscopy training.

Trainees are split into different groups depending on their prior experience. Experienced trainees go to the hospital for hands-on training, while less experienced trainees can be trained using several kinds of simulators and animal models.

WGO-RTC 10th Annual Course Celebration (January 27 to February 5, 2011)



From left to right: The Director of Ibn Sina Hospital, the Past President of WGO, the Vice President of University Mohammed5 Souissi –Rabat and the Director of WGO-RTC



Program, available on the website at: <http://wgo-rtc.um5s.ac.ma>

- International Course on Advances in Hepatology, Gastroenterology, proctology and digestive oncology
- Workshop of clinical cases
- Ultrasound Course (One week of Ultrasound Course (Learning Center and workshop)
- Endoscopic Ultra Sound (EUS)
- Motility...
- Hands On Training in diagnostic and Therapeutic Endoscopy (three levels of training are provided depending on the level of each trainee.)



To celebrate the 10th Course with all the participants, we ended the Course with the 3rd African Middle Eastern Congress on Digestive Cancer, which was held on 4-5 February, 2011 in Rabat.



Above: Opening ceremony of the 3rd Conference of AMDCA

Opening of the 11th Annual Course (January 26 to February 4, 2012)



The 11th Course has benefited from the assistance of experts from several countries, including Belgium, France, Germany, Morocco and Tunisia (see the attached program)

PARTICIPANTS TRAINEES:

At the registration deadline (January 2, 2012) the number of applicants exceeded one hundred. We were forced to close it (based on CV) to **76 trainees**.

They came from **18 Countries**: *Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo - Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Palestine, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia*



The 12th Annual Course (January 24 to February 2, 2013)



PARTICIPANTS TRAINEES:

At the registration deadline (January 2, 2012) the number of applicants exceeded one hundred. We were forced to close it (based on CV) to **84 trainees**.

They came from **22 Countries:** *Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Chad, Djibouti, Emirates, Gabon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Palestine, Republic Democratic of Congo, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia*



Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of WGO-RTC (January 2003- January 2013)



The 13th Annual Course (January 23 to February 2, 2014)





85 Participants from 18 countries:

Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Central African Republic, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Republic Democratic of Congo, Senegal, Syria, Togo and Tunisia





Evaluation

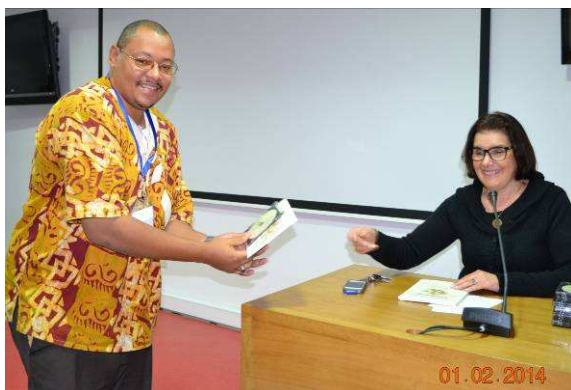
At the end of each annual course, all participants are invited to answer a course evaluation form. The winners are the first and second in the standings. They earn a scholarship enabling them to attend the next annual course of the Centre for free.



Evaluation of the Annual Course

Upon completion of the course, all trainees are provided with:

- DVD and all related documents to the Course.
- The certificate of attendance



WGO-RTC Team preparing DVD & related documents

Further Academic Activities of the WGO Rabat Training Center:

A multidisciplinary interactive workshop

The WGO-RTC and the Gastroenterology Department organize an interactive and multidisciplinary workshop of Hepatology and Gastroenterology of clinical cases every 2 weeks.

Teleconference with Grenoble University

The WGO-RTC and the Gastroenterology Department organize a monthly multidisciplinary interactive discussion of IBD clinical cases

Electronic Network Essay and Update

In Jun 2010, Dr. Shimizu had organized a teleconferencing event linking the WGO Cairo Training Center and the WGO Rabat Training Center, which was a successful experience!

ACG Education Universe Pilot Program

WGO-RTC joined the American College of Gastroenterology's Education Universe Pilot Program on the 1st of November 2010. Ten trainees are involved in this program, all of them being gastroenterology residents, from the following African countries: Benin, Cameroon, Djibouti and Morocco. Residents were chosen with different years of certification in gastroenterology (4th, 3rd, 2nd and 1st year), and with different English levels so that their improvement and difficulties can be assessed.

Endorsements:

The WGO-RTC has been endorsed by:

- World Gastroenterology Organization (WGO)
- Ministry of Higher Education in Morocco (MoHE)
- Moroccan academic hierarchy:
 - University Mohammed5 Souissi (UM5S)
 - Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Rabat (FMPR)
 - The Ibn Sina University Hospital (CHIS)
- Munich Gastroenterology Foundation
- Communauté Urbaine du Grand Nancy

WGO-RTC has also been endorsed by the following National Societies:

- Association of National European and Mediterranean Societies of Gastroenterology (ASNEMGE)
- Société Nationale Française de Gastroenterologie (SNFGE)
- Société Française pour L'Etude de Foie (AFEF)
- Société de Formation Médicale Continue en Hépatogastroenterologie (FMC-HGE)
- Société Française d'Endoscopie Digestive (SFED)
- The Belgian Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (BSGIE)
- Association Française de Chirurgie Hépatobiliaire et de Transplantation hépatique (ACHBT)
- Société Allemande d'Endoscopie Digestive (DGE-VB)
- Club de Reflexion des Cabinets et Groupes d'Hépatogastroentérologie (CREGG)
- Société Marocaine des Maladies de l'Appareil Digestif (SMMAD)
- Société Marocaine d'Endoscopie Digestive (SMED)

Funding / Sponsorship:

International Course on Advances in Gastroenterology and Digestive Endoscopy takes place annually at the end of January for 10 days and can accommodate between 50 and 85 trainees.

Funding and sponsorship are currently received from the following sources:

- The World Gastroenterology Organization (WGO)
- the Moroccan academic hierarchy: UM5S, FMPR, CHIS
- Munich Gastroenterology Foundation
- Communauté Urbaine du Grand Nancy
- Société Française pour L'Etude de Foie (AFEF)
- Société Nationale Française de Formation Médicale Continue en Hépatogastro-Entérologie (FMC-HGE)
- Société Française d'Endoscopie Digestive (SFED)
- Société Nationale Française de Gastroentérologie (SNFGE)
- The Belgian Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (BSGIE)
- Association Française de Chirurgie Hépatobiliaire et de Transplantation Hépatique (ACHBT)
- Société Allemande d'Endoscopie Digestive (DGE-VB)
- Club de Réflexion des Cabinets et Groupes d'Hépatogastroentérologie (CRE)

Funding comes also from some companies who are generously involved in the development of gastroenterology in emerging countries especially in Africa: AstraZeneca, Cook Medical, ERBE, MSD, Olympus, Pharmaceutical Institute, Pentax, Roche and Sothema.

Cultural and friendly experiences

- Guided cultural visit of Rabat on the first Saturday evening of each course (14:30 to 18:30) followed by a Moroccan dinner offered to all participants.
- Dinner in a typical Moroccan restaurant offered to all participants on the last Saturday of the course.

Conclusion:

The WGO-RTC provides training and education in gastroenterology that may not exist locally (several African countries have no programmers). The WGO-RTC links gastroenterologists with the global GI community minimizing their sense of isolation.

The benefit seems to be very important and different from one trainee to another depending on what they want to learn as an example: Dr Firmin Bossali, from Congo Brazzaville participated at our annual courses as a trainee, especially in ultrasound technic. We were delighted to welcome him this year as an expert in ultrasound (see the program of the 13th Course)

We can confirm that WGO-RTC reaches its goal of being a training site of trainers.

To measure the actual impact of the center's activities on medical care in the homelands remains difficult but, even without having exact figures; one can be assured that the impact is real and substantial. Bringing novel insights in gastroenterological-hepatological science and practice together with renewed professional enthusiasm, even to the most remote areas of Africa is bound to raise the level of medical care and will contribute in narrowing the gap between emerging and developed countries, a world of solidarity!

Further Information:

For more additional information on WGO-RTC, please
- Refer to Rabat Training Center Info Package
- Visit WGO-RTC website at: <http://wgo-rtc.um5s.ac.ma>.

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