

# Postgraduate medical education and training in Iraq: How should we modernise?

Dear Authors,

This is an excellent article<sup>1</sup> addressing very important subject in medical education. You reviewed an important subject related to the current update in postgraduate training curricula internationally and mainly in the UK and the development that was introduced to secure safe and competent graduation of specialists and compare it to the current practice in Iraq.

We would like to mention the following points:

**First:** the medical education is continuum process starting from undergraduate students to residency to postgraduate fellowship, therefore addressing undergraduate curricula in Iraqi medical colleges and emphasize the importance of modernization to outcome/competency based is very crucial to build on during further stages of medical education.

Currently most of medical students graduated from medical colleges reaching residency stage loaded with knowledge but with variable capabilities in other domains (Skills, behavior and other generic skills).

**Second:** Consultant/trainer development program in different domains of medical education is very essential to be adopted by both academic bodies awarding fellowship certificate in Iraq (Iraqi and Arab board) to ensure effective implementation of any training program/course.

**Third:** we strongly support the authors description of the current post graduate curricula are lacking of clear pre specified outcomes /competences, modernised learning methods, assessment, evaluation and development.

**Forth:** lack of regulatory body in Iraq similar to general medical council (GMC) to regulate

medical practice and set the standards of practice and expected outcomes for both undergraduate and postgraduate training affect it adversely.

**What shall we do? And where do we start?**

Strongly endorse the author suggestion to start an initiative that brings all stakeholders in Iraq together to set the standard for PG training taking in consideration the global developments and Iraqi population needs.

**Hilal Bahjet Al Saffar**

CABM, FRCP UK

Consultant cardiologist

International advisor, Royal college of Physician, London for Iraq

---

1. Mustafa O, Alsheikh Gh. Postgraduate medical education and training in Iraq: How should we modernise? *Iraqi New Medical Journal* July 2022;8(16):64-86.