
SAMA 1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT



Sudanese American Medical Association



Introduction

The Sudanese American Medical Association (SAMA) held its' first general meeting on July 3rd 2010, in Chicago Midway Marriott Hotel, in Chicago, IL. It was well attended with delegates from 9 different states.

The introductory presentation was followed by a brainstorming session with open discussion between SAMA members about SAMA's future programs. Our special guest for the evening was Prof Taha Talaat, ENT surgeon and director of the Sudanese National Institute for the deaf. He kindly shared his experience in charitable work in Sudan spanning more than 40 years.

Meeting Program

The meeting started with presentations from the Executive Council outlining the following:

- SAMA's inception and bylaws
 - SAMA President, Omer Elamin
 - SAMA's Incorporation; Tax ID, Finances and website hosting/ maintenance
 - SAMA Secretary, Ezzeldin Saleh
 - SAMA's Current Membership
 - SAMA Administrator, Bushra Ibauf
 - SAMA Educational and Professional Development Programs
 - SAMA Administrator, Salah Abusin
 - SAMA in Sudan
 - SAMA Vice-President, Ihab Abdulrahman (Tarawa)
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Future SAMA Educational Projects

Current Activities

- SAMA E clinic.
- Providing questions to Sudan Medical Council (SMC) licensing examination.
- Collaboration with SMC in a project to develop a professionalism curriculum.



Ideas from the conference

- 1- Develop subspecialty clubs to allow for close networking between subspecialty doctors in Sudan and the US, provide clinical cases for the SAMA E-clinic, compose questions for the SMC licensing examination, and foster any other potential means for collaboration and coordination in delivering services needed in Sudan.
- 2- Organize SAMA Visiting Lecturer Program with the long term vision of establishing a teaching clinical service in Sudan staffed by visiting attendings from the US and possibly UK/Ireland, on a weekly schedule around the year.
- 3- Develop and adapt known clinical pathways/ guidelines (especially in Emergency medicine) as an available resource for physicians in Sudan.

Work Plan for 2010/2011

- Develop subspecialty clubs
 - 1- Starting October 2010.
 - 2- These clubs will further SAMA's educational goals initially with a view to expand into humanitarian and professional development goals.
- Organize lectures from SAMA members during their visits to Sudan.
- Continue collaboration with SMC in developing Professionalism Curriculum, and question bank for its' licensing exam for Sudanese medical graduates.

Professional Development: SAMA Support for Match Applicants

Current Activities

1. Information gateway from beginning USMLE exams to starting residency
 - a. www.sama-sd.org,
 - b. admin@sama-sd.org,
 - c. www.sama-sd.org/forum
 - d. <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/sudaneseDoctorsUSA/>
2. Review Personal Statements and CVs.



Ideas suggested in the meeting

- SAMA Scholarship Fund
 - Support match applicants during match season with airline gift cards
- Networking amongst Sudanese physicians to help match applicants with:
 - Observerships/letters of recommendations
 - Overnight accommodation for interviews/exams
 - Transportation to and from airport for interviews/exams
- Increase the size of SAMA network through increasing membership size
 - More advertising over the internet using Sudanese websites e.g.:
 - Sudaneseonline
 - Facebook, etc.
 - Intensify the role of personal communication by members in recruiting colleagues.
- Organize workshops for match applicants to disseminate information in a face to face manner rather than only the internet.
- Organize revision course/mock exam for Step 2 CS.
- Arrange regular visits to Sudanese medical schools to disseminate above information.
- Stress the importance of research to Sudanese physicians in Sudan at an early stage to enhance competitiveness in US application.

Future Work Plan

Devolution of the workload into projects according to timeline with specific tasks given to specific members:

Short term (next 6 months)

1. Building up the SAMA network
2. Set up USMLE Advisory group (USMLE exams)
 - a. Update the SAMA website.
 - b. Moderate the SAMA forum.
 - c. Answer all questions pertinent to USMLE.
3. Residency Application Advisory Group
 - a. Update the SAMA website.
 - b. Moderate the SAMA forum.
 - c. Answer all questions pertinent to residency application.
4. Coordination of Networking among Sudanese physician for
 - a. Observership/letters of recommendation.
 - b. Overnight accommodation.
 - c. Transportation to and from airport.
 - d. CV/Personal Statement Review.

Medium term (next 12 months)

1. Organize Seminars/Lectures to Match Applicants according to city/state.
2. Organize Step 2 CS courses according to city/state.

Long term (after 1 year +)

1. Add a lecture of Roadmap to training in USA to SAMA's Visiting Fellow program, to include stress on the importance of research in enhancing competitiveness.
2. Establish and maintain SAMA Scholarship Fund.



Future SAMA Humanitarian Projects

Ideas and Work Plan:

- 1- Assist *Adeela Center* in Khartoum of the Sudanese Deaf Association with equipment.
- 2- Participate and help organize medical missions with existent organizations, which currently have assets and logistics access in Sudan.
- 3- Long-term project: establish a clinic in Sudan, staffed by SAMA members, to provide health care and be a teaching facility.



SAMA Membership

- 1- Every attendant pledged to invite 10 potential members to join SAMA.
- 2- Send invitation letters/e-mails for senior attendings/ specialists in the US and Sudan to join SAMA and get their advice and suggestions.
- 3- Post SAMA website/news-letter in popular Sudanese websites.
- 4- SAMA will form regional members groups. Will assign a leader in each region to manage activities and increase the membership base.
- 5- Will form a member's directory (with attention to member's privacy).

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