Anne G. Osborne ASNR International Outreach Professor Program
Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt
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My experience as the Anne Osborne ASNR International Visiting Professor at Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt, was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. From the earliest planning stages through my final day in Egypt, I was struck by the warmth, enthusiasm, and hospitality of my hosts and colleagues. Prior to my arrival, Dr. Aya Yassin and Dr. Yasser Abbas, together with members of the organizing committee, and myself developed a thoughtful and structured curriculum for my visit. The program was designed to progressively increase in complexity, beginning with foundational didactic lectures and advancing toward interactive, case-based learning and practical approaches to head and neck imaging. Even before setting foot in Cairo, the committee made me feel welcomed and at home.

Upon arriving in Egypt, I met with Dr. Aya Yassin and a radiology fellow. Almost immediately, it felt as though we had known one another for years. That same sense of camaraderie continued throughout the entire visit. On the first day of teaching, I was greeted by an audience filled with smiling, welcoming faces who were eager not only to learn, but also to share their own experiences and perspectives. We began with didactic lectures addressing the head and neck spaces, followed by head and neck infections, and imaging of dysphonia. The afternoon transitioned to interactive, case-based learning, with enthusiastic participation from residents, fellows, and faculty.

The next day of learning focused on imaging of Horner syndrome, followed by collaborative discussions of challenging cases. I had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Togan, the department's “go-to” expert in head and neck radiology. Together, we discussed difficult cases and explored not only the imaging findings, but also how we would approach and communicate the diagnosis or differential in a radiology report. These conversations highlighted the value of international educational exchange as a two-way experience, in which both the visiting professor and the host institution learn from one another.

A particularly memorable component of the visit was the hospital day, which focused on a “How I Do It” approach. Residents and fellows selected multiple challenging and interesting cases, and we worked through them together. Rather than simply reviewing diagnoses, I shared my search pattern and systematic approach to evaluating head and neck pathology. This practical, case-driven format provided an opportunity to discuss the nuances of interpretation and the real-world decision-making that occurs when approaching complex imaging studies.

The final day included didactic lectures on staging laryngeal cancer and evaluation of the post-treatment neck. The afternoon featured a university-wide session titled “Climbing the Academic Pyramid,” followed by an “Ask Me Anything” discussion. This provided an opportunity for faculty, residents, and fellows to engage in open conversations about career development, research, artificial intelligence, and strategies for building a successful head and neck radiology practice. The broad participation and thoughtful questions demonstrated the tremendous interest in academic and professional development at Ain Shams University.

Interwoven throughout the teaching program were opportunities to experience the rich history and culture of Egypt. I was fortunate to visit the pyramids and the Sphinx and explore the Grand Egyptian Museum. Sharing meals and trying local Egyptian cuisine—including koshary, a beloved street food—provided additional opportunities to connect with my new colleagues outside of the academic setting.

Overall, this experience was far more than a visiting professorship. It was an opportunity to teach, learn, build meaningful professional relationships, and experience a remarkable culture and history. I am deeply grateful to Dr. Aya Yassin, Dr. Yasser Abbas, the organizing committee, and all of the residents, fellows, and faculty at Ain Shams University for their extraordinary hospitality and enthusiasm. I would not change a thing about the experience. The most difficult part of the entire visit was saying goodbye to the people who, in such a short time, had become my new family in Egypt. I left Cairo with tremendous gratitude, lasting friendships, and memories that I will carry with me for a lifetime.








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