



EFSUMB Ultrasound Learning Centers - National Centre for Ultrasound in Gastroenterology, Bergen, Norway

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The National Center for Ultrasound in Gastroenterology at Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen, Norway, was accredited as an EFSUMB Ultrasound Learning Center, “Bergen Ultrasound Learning School”, in November 2014. Since then, we have had six visiting doctors from five different nationalities at five separate occasions. The attendees are medical doctors specialized or specializing in radiology or gastroenterology.

We offer visiting doctors the opportunity to stay for a longer or shorter period of time. However, we often recommend a two week stay. Prior all visits, information is given and details are planned by our coordinator Dr Birgitte Berentsen. In our experience, it is beneficial that the attendee has some basic experience with ultrasound, but it is not a prerequisite. ULC Bergen provides state-of-the-art equipment both for transabdominal and endoscopic ultrasound, as well as facilities for experimental and basic acoustic research. We offer training in diagnostic abdominal ultrasonography using multiple approaches such as contrast enhanced ultrasound, motility, endosonography, Doppler, 3D ultrasound, Strain Rate Imaging and sonoelastography. Ultrasonography of the liver, bile ducts and gall bladder, pancreas, spleen etc. We also offer training in endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) and a newly established method; peroral endoscopic myotomy (POEM). Candidates may also receive training in: Ultrasound physics, safety of ultrasound and contrast agents, ultrasound instrumentation, scanning techniques, ultrasound artefacts, anatomy (of the relevant body systems), pathology (of the relevant body systems), ultrasound findings in the normal condition, ultrasound findings in pathological conditions, scan interpretation, indications for ultrasound and inter-relationship with other imaging modalities, ultrasound-guided procedures.

As an accredited Ultrasound Learning Centre we follow the guidelines specified by The European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in medicine and Biology. Further, standard procedure for all hospital workers that are not from Scandinavia requires that any visiting MD must provide a negative TBC and MRSA test before entering the premises. Attendees may also get tested upon arrival, however, this might involve a two-day quarantine. There are no fees involved when attending ULC Bergen, but the attendees must cover their own expenses. We explicitly stress that Norway is one of the world's most expensive

economies. Furthermore, we offer information regarding accommodation. The hospital owns several close-by buildings where it is possible to rent a room for a reasonable price.

Our first candidate was Dr. Steven Botts, from AMC, Amsterdam, Netherlands. As a part of his PhD-work Dr Botts attended ULC Bergen for 3 months and received thorough training in ultrasound of the small intestines. In August, the Egyptian colleagues Dr Hatem Elalfy and Dr Tarek Besheer from Mansoura University Hospital arrived ULC Bergen together for a two week stay. In September, the Portuguese gastroenterologist Dr Miguel Afonso from Hospital Sao Joao and Oporto Medical School came for a two week stay. Dr Afonso had obesity and ultrasound meal accommodation tests of special interest. At the end of November the Saudi Arabian gastroenterologist Dr Haitham Mohamed attended ULC Bergen for 2 weeks. Our first female attendee was the Belgian radiologist Dr. Isabelle De Kock from Gent university hospital. And at last, Dr Tiago Cúrdia Gonçalves from Portugal has been our last visiting doctor thus far. We have two future ULC Bergen attendees; Dr. Vita Skuja from Riga Stradins Univerisity, and Ms. Alison Deslandes from Adelaide, Australia.

