

Sohilla Lotfy

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Short Biography

My name is Sohilla Lotfy, I am 35 years old and I have been working in the field of clinical Immunology since 2014. I graduated from Cairo University Medical School in Egypt my hometown. I speak English, Arabic and Fair French. After graduating, I have been trained in a three-year residency program at Cairo University Children's Hospital, which is the largest and the busiest tertiary referral children hospital in Egypt serving around 800,000 patients yearly, offering wide range of pediatric specialized services and by then I completed my Masters degrees in pediatrics. After Which, I joined immunology department as a subspecialty at my hospital, finding it a very interesting, evolving branch, new field of studying rare primary inherited immunodeficiency diseases which are relatively widespread in my country. I have been attending PID clinics after my Masters degree, under the supervision of a great team who encouraged and gave me all care and support to be involved in this study field, seeing plenty of PID patients, history taking, full examination, ordering investigations available at our hospital, in order to reach a diagnosis, also following up inpatients and setting plan of their management. In our center, we have diagnosed over past 10 years hundreds of patients with PID, and collaborations with different centers in Europe and USA, helped us much in genetic diagnosis of difficult cases and atypical presentations. I did research in severe combined immunodeficiency and obtained my MD degree in November 2017. Yet with all the limitations that we are facing and working with restricted resources, wemanaged to introduce to our laboratory services not just routine immunological profile, but also various flow cytometric analyses, Intracellular protein assessment, in addition to DNA extraction and Sanger sequencing in SCID patients and this year we introduced next-generation sequencing. I was trained as a clinical fellow at BMT unit at our hospital in September 2018, the unit is specialized in HSCT of non- malignant hematological diseases & primary immunodeficiency disorders, I managed to help in BMT counseling,pre transplant work up, BMT procedure and following up patients post transplant.

Motivation letter

I am applying again to continue as ESID junior country representative as I would love to be more involved with other junior colleagues through all those networking events that serve to meet other motivated people who are willing to share their experiences and push us to commit further with PID. COVID pandemic in the past 2 years set us a lot of limitations in our activities and meetings, and I believe we could do more, I would like to be more involved as well with all the junior immunologists from different universities all over Egypt to get the chance to interact and gain the knowledge, as well as physicians interested in the field of inborn errors of immunity. I was lucky to attend ESID summer school held in Athens last May, which was an outstanding experience for me and exceeded all my expectations in everything, I would like juniors from Egypt to get to join such meetings and activities on a regular basis.

I hope I can meet interested colleagues from different parts of world, getting contacts to be able to form a network all over different countries, sharing information, discussing problems that we encounter to reach a proper diagnosis of our cases, which will help much in our learning process and also benefit our patients who deserve receiving high quality care and service. It will also be my pleasure meeting new people of different nationalities having common interests, and making new friends.

I hope I can increase awareness in my country with better understanding of my practice on a more professional basis, helping in early detection and diagnosis of PID cases, increasing possibility of bone marrow transplantation for diagnosed cases, future gene therapy. I would also like to learn more in the sequencing technique, bioinformatics, interpretations of NGS/WES. As representative of my team at Cairo university, we aim to help our patients, improving our practice and patients' outcome, providing better quality of life for these children, giving hope for them and their families and definitely spreading the knowledge all over other developing centers in Egypt, forming a mini-network serving PID patients.

Kindest Regards,

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