



## **Excitement as PACES launches in Sudan**

A growing number of doctors around the world have the opportunity to sit the MRCP(UK) Diploma examinations, thanks to the expansion of PACES places outside the UK. In addition, this frees up places for trainees in the UK, where demand for places is also intense.

The number of candidates attempting PACES at international centres increased by 35% in 2011–12. The latest launch was in Khartoum, Sudan, where 45 candidates sat the exam at Soba University Hospital in December.

Professor Jane Dacre, MRCP(UK) medical director, said “The first examination went extraordinarily well, thanks to the diligence and support of the local team, led by our host, Dr Osheik Seidi. This development has been in gestation for a few years, and it is an exciting achievement for the Federation.” She also thanked the examining team, including Dr Lawrence McAlpine and Mrs Lindy Tedford from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.



This is the first time that we have taken the step of including an administrator in the UK team and it proved to be immensely helpful on the day. It was an unforgettable experience for her as well, said Mrs Tedford. “I was thrilled to be invited to be part of the MRCP(UK) visiting team. The centre was ideal. The host examiner was a whirlwind of activity, hospitality and enthusiasm, which filtered down to his staff and support team.” She added “I would love to be invited back but suspect that now that the pilot and first exam have been so successful, there will be no need for any future administrative support. The trip to Sudan will remain in my memory as a very special highlight during my association with the MRCP(UK) exams.”

Dr Seidi also thanked the UK team and local colleagues for making the day possible. “PACES in Sudan is a long-awaited historic event ... and a realisation of a dear dream of our senior physicians who worked for it over many years,” he said. “We are grateful to the University of Khartoum represented by the Dean of the Faculty of

Medicine, Professor Ammar El Tahir, and his team, the administration of Soba University Hospital headed by Dr Suliman Hussein, and the Director of Soba Education, Training and Examination Centre (SETEC), Dr Magid Salah. The university availed all its resources to our task force. This achievement was a group effort and will serve generations of Sudanese doctors to follow.”

In our efforts to increase international access to PACES, we will continue to work with Fellows of our Colleges based outside the UK to expand existing successful PACES centres and also consider new ones in areas where demand is high.