

6th Internal Medicine Update Conference 2024—Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi
November 22–24, 2024
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
ACP Global Ambassadors reflections by: Saba Hasan, MD, MACP

Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi's annual Internal Medicine Update Conference is endorsed by the American College of Physicians (ACP) and the Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM). Conference organizers request representation at this conference from leadership of these two organizations. I was honored to serve as ACP's Global Ambassador for the event.

The conference had about 1,200 registrants representing some 50 countries. Attendees included a mix of medical students, residents, hospitalists, and subspecialists. There was no registration fee for the attendees. Kiosks were set up for attendees to print their conference credentials and badges. To claim attendance and/or CME credits, attendees were required to scan their badges at the start of each cohort of sessions. All sessions were held in a large auditorium with breakfast and lunch served. Multiple areas for coffee breaks (with snacks) were set up outside of the auditorium, which also included booths for pharma exhibits and representatives. The breaks provided good networking opportunities.

All conference sessions were very pertinent to the everyday practice of internal medicine with a focus on hospital medicine. Speakers with impressive credentials made outstanding presentations followed by Q&A sessions. Session moderators were internal medicine residents at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi and did an outstanding job. Pharma representatives provided a couple of sessions with appropriate disclaimers; no CME credit was offered for such sessions. The conference included a medical jeopardy session (moderated by the chief resident at the Cleveland Clinic Residency Program) and a poster session. I participated in the poster-judging session along with the leadership of the Cleveland Clinic Hospitalist Program. Posters represented interesting case vignettes and research projects. The Cleveland Clinic poster template was utilized, providing uniformity to posters, which were judged using an organized form created by the conference planning committee. Of note, this year the planning committee had resident representation, bringing the learner perspective to session offerings. The residents in attendance were engaged and participated actively in Q&A.

My keynote presentation on "State of ACP—Work Done for International Members" was well received with audience engagement.

My second presentation on "Utilizing Internal Medicine Milestones Beyond Reporting" intrigued the medical educators in attendance. It was interesting to learn that the faculty of the Internal Medicine Residency Program makes an effort to attend the ACGME Annual Educational Conference to stay abreast of the requirements of training and process of implementation.

Overall, the conference was very well organized and at the caliber of national conferences I have attended in the United States. Sessions were 30 minutes long, keeping the attention span of an average learner and good engagement with Q&A.

The leadership and conference organizers extended a warm welcome to me with special seating and checked on me throughout the day. I presented the ACP gift to Dr. Mahmoud Al-Hawamdeh after the opening ceremony. He was delighted to receive it and expressed his gratitude. I made many new friends, exchanged contact information, and met physicians who had lived in New Jersey previously or had trained in New Jersey. The conference organizers provided me with a Certificate of Appreciation and an acrylic model of their building with my name on it.

In summary, this was a unique experience for me as a first-time attendee of an international conference. I was impressed with the professional backgrounds of the speakers, the well-organized conference with thoughtfully chosen hospital medicine topics, and the warm Arab hospitality (which left me greatly humbled).



Dr. Hasan presenting a gift to Dr. Al-Hawamdeh on behalf of ACP



Dr. Hasan's gift and Certificate of Appreciation from Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi