

Letters, Questions, Answers, etc

King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre A Unique Job Opportunity as Consulting Dermatologist

Kristian Thestrup-Pedersen

King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, Dept. of Medicine, Section of Dermatology, MBC #46, P.O. Box 3354, 11211 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

E-mail: ktpedersen@kfshrc.edu.sa

The Section of Dermatology, Department of Medicine at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia is looking for a qualified consultant dermatologist preferably with an academic background.

KFSH&RC is a referral hospital, where patients from all over the Kingdom can be seen because of diagnostic or therapeutic difficulties. In dermatology, rare and severe cases are common including genetic diseases as epidermolysis bullosa, xeroderma pigmentosum, and Papillon-LeFevre syndrome, as well as patients with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, severe psoriasis, connective tissue diseases, interesting and rare hair disorders and extensive vitiligo, where patients undergo depigmentation using Benquin. The consultant is involved in inpatient care as a primary physician or as consultant, where a variety of difficult and interesting cases are seen such as skin infections in immuno-compromised patients,



The main entrance of the King Faisal Specialist hospital and Research Centre.

graft-versus-host diseases, SCID (combined immunodeficiency disease) patients plus other interesting pediatric dermatoses.

The section is well equipped with three consultation rooms plus other rooms for vascular and pigment lasers, UV cabinets including UVA and narrow-band UVB and UV therapy for hand and feet. Recently a photopheresis unit was added. There is a dermato-pathology service and photographic service.

The hospital has an extensive number of laboratories with possibilities for genetic and molecular biological analysis. The immuno-hematology section is advanced due to the many bone marrow transplantations, which take place. A research center is attached within the hospital, and there are good possibilities for basic

and clinical research. The library is very good with online access to several databases including medline via the Ovid system.

The patients seen in the dermatology section are professionally very interesting. The section has possibilities for admissions if needed. Presently, there are three consultants, one assistant physician, and two residents in training for dermatology and venereology. There are three nurses and one translator attached to the section.

I am now on my 3rd year at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research center. I find the job very stimulating and interesting. You see patients, which you normally never see in Scandinavia.



King Faisal Specialist hospital and Research Centre - the outpatient department, where "dermatology" is located.

The hospital provides you with free accommodation with excellent facilities for sports activities (swimming, tennis, squash, gym centers) and the social club arranges tours for its members, private internet access and much more. Golf is available at the Intercontinental Golf Club, 1 km from the hospital. The club has a professional trainer.

Weather is almost always sunny. This last year it has rained for a couple of weeks altogether, a much

needed rain that brings flowers and trees to blossom.

For those who love nature, Saudi Arabia is "an oasis" of beautiful desert areas, where you can find desert roses, fossils, stones, etc, to real oasis with palms, with mountains and with hundreds of kilometers of beaches and coral reefs. It is one of the best diving places in the world. Tourism here is very scarce so the nature is unspoiled.

Saudi Arabia is the country having the holiest places and cities within Islam, where millions of pilgrims arrive yearly especially during Haj. The law is the Islamic law. You have to follow the rules and customs of the country. This includes for women that you are not allowed to drive a car and have to use the abbaya, when outside the compound.

Within the last year there has been terrorist activity in Saudi Arabia. The Saudis are clearly against these activities and security is tight. Following several unpleasant events we feel the security forces of the government has efficiently been able to diminish these activities. We feel that Riyadh is one of the safest major cities to live in. Crime does not exist.

If of interest, you can visit the website of our hospital (www.kfshrc.edu.sa) or e-mail to Dr Abdullah Alfadley, Head, Section of Dermatology afadley@kfshrc.edu.sa or to me, ktpedersen@kfshrc.edu.sa.