

# The Importance of International Pharmacy Practice Residency Accreditation: A Case Study



By Sherif Kamal Eldin Mohamed

---

Our journey with ASHP started 20 years ago when ASHP staff members Douglas Scheckelhoff and Karl Gumpfer were invited by our CEO, Sherif Abo El Naga, to give us recommendations about practice and education.

As we learned about ASHP best practices, we started to design our pharmacy and our processes accordingly. We created a roadmap to continuously improve our comprehensive pharmacy practice which was the catalyst for our ambitious plan to be the first oncology hospital in Egypt to become JCI-accredited.

At that time, our pharmacy was the cornerstone for our hospital representing both high quality and high performance operations. To continue to keep that reputation, we knew we needed the very best pharmacy education which is when we reached back out to ASHP. At the same time, advanced pharmacy practice was continuing to grow across the region. We invited Douglas Scheckelhoff and David Warner back to launch a new era of professional training and education in Egypt. At this time we were subsequently getting ready for our first 10 pharmacy residents. We decided accreditation was the tool we needed to reach our mission and vision. We used the standards of accreditation as a roadmap to design, develop and implement both a quality pharmacy practice and a sound residency program, inclusive of an ambitious preceptorship and mentorship program. We were able to grow to 12 residents as we started our journey guided by the initial report and continuous support of ASHP staff to fully understand and implement the residency program.



We then began to use PharmAcademic software and became the first hospital in Egypt to ever use such programs. The translations of learning objectives, and the development of the program backbone was challenging at times. As we approached the end of the first cycle, we received our first accreditation team visit. We learned a great amount in the first year of our residency following the steps of ASHP accreditation, and we gained a huge amount of hands-on experience with the addition of the accreditation visits. Our friends from ASHP created an environment of support and a culture for continuous improvement. The residency program was able to provide us the experience and tools we needed to not only improve our pharmacy practice, but transition to a team-oriented approach and we were able to create a safe learning and practicing environment. The pharmacy created a slogan to summarize our educational concept: Translating Theory into Practice. For the first time, preceptors were trained and certified. And also for the first time, timely and productive feedback was practiced.

**The tools and the resources we received from ASHP were integral to achieving our shared objective - improving and advancing pharmacy practice and pharmacy professional education.**

As we went through a successful accreditation process, the residents were the word-of-mouth visualization of how our residency program can produce competent pharmacists that are patient-centered, drug-focused and outcome-oriented.

Finally, ASHP IPPR was our change agents to improve patient outcomes by providing the pharmacy practice with the comprehensive quality practice, smart education and application of sound research. We look forward to continuing to partner with ASHP and continuing to improve and advance our pharmacy practice.