

Editorial

***Makki H. Fayadh MRCP FRCP Edi.**

Dear colleagues

This new issue of our journal appears inspite of all the current unstable political and security situations in Iraq as we are facing grave security situations including kidnapping of doctors and other scientists by an unknown organized groups .We are inneed of aids both for acute medicine & disasters and for long term aid in training , up to date publications and reference books , and upgrading and maintenance of our equipments.

We in the society are determined to continue our scientific activities and to make communications easier , we started our website: www.iraq-git.com in which the reader will find all what he wants to know about our Iraqi GIT/ hepatology society , our GIT & liver teaching hospital and our training programs and our research work .

The society and the hospital are hoping that closer contacts be made between our society/ hospital and other counterparts in the area and the international associations and medical centers .

The very good news is the establishment by the ministry of health of the new national hepatology research and treatment center which we hope will contribute to the upgrading of hepatology research and services in Iraq.

During our society visits to the north and middle parts of Iraq we were informed of the discovery of Fasciola hepaticus infections in Iraq , five cases seen, 4 cases in Sulaimanya in the north and one in Hilla in the middle of Iraq seen by our surgical colleagues during operations for jaundiced patients .

In this issue there is an article about the first case report of Fasciola Hepaticus in Iraq in the North city of Sulaimayniah ,this will be a stimulus for the health authorities and research workers to study this in details .

Another article from Basrah address the pathogenicity of what was considered anon pathogenic organism Blastocysts hominis and the good response to trimethoprim – sulpha.

There are papers on familial Mediterranean fever and a paper on Iraq alcoholic liver disease became a problem second only to the viral etiology. A paper on coeliac disease in our thin Iraqi patients and the problem of liver disease in pregnancy. Amebic liver abscesses are addressed by a paper from the north of Iraq.This artical point to the importance of liver abscesses in Iraq and the need to use the seriological testing and also study the response of Amoeba to the usual treatments in Iraq.There is a need to expand this study all over Iraq as we have not seen definit evidence of Amoebiasis in the cases mentioned in this article.There are unconfirmed reports of Ameoba resistant to metronidazole treatment in Iraq which need to be studied .

The problems associated with duodenal diverticula is addressed in one of the papers.

Thanks to the colleagues from the AGA who sent medical journals , and DDW activities and CDS which we distributed to all our medical colleges and we hope other societies will do the same.

we hope that Hinari net work access will help our society members to get access to the international puplications.

*** Dr. Makki H. Fayadh**

**Director of the Gastroenterology and Hepatology teaching hospital
President of the Iraqi Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology**

Our society made a lot of contacts with regional and international associations and organizations and we felt that we need their support .we are trying to establish an Arab GIT and liver data base and unify our research and training programs.

Many thanks to the American Gastrointestinal associations for thier help in sending teaching materials and medical journals which we distributed to the medical colleges and GIT centers.

We made contacts with the Iranian society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and we hope that some of our society members will attend their coming colorectal cancer course in Teheran Oct. 6-8/2004 .

In our website www.iraq-git.com you will find the society and hospital news, the journal updates. Membership for our society is extended to include all Iraqi scientists interested in gastroenterology and hepatology regardless of age.Our e.mail is :- iraqgit@hotmail.com

We are sure that there are very many good people in the world ready to help and the way to help can be negotiated through our addresses .

Hope that the year 2005 will be better than this year and will see more stability and security in our country.

Our best regards.....