

**Report of COESCA
Urology Fellowship exam
– Windhoek, Namibia**

December 2022.

Suzie Venn



The 2022 COESCA FCS exams were held face to face for the first time since 2019, in Windhoek, Namibia. I flew in for the examiners meeting on Sunday 4th of December. Namibia is three times the size of the UK, with a population of just over 2 million. It is a very low resource country, although superficially in Windhoek this was not obvious. The people I met were delightful.

The COESCA exams have grown exponentially over the last few years and whereas previously the MCS OSCE's were held on the first day and FCS exams on day 2, the numbers taking the general surgery and orthopaedic fellowships now require 2 days of examining, so the MCS exams are now held in each of the countries in the COESCA region.

Urology examined 9 candidates this year – the most ever. There were 12 examiners – 8 Africans, 3 Americans and myself. The exam was held in Windhoek Hospital, and excellent cases were organised by our local host Dr Johannes Becker and his wonderful team. There were 6 clinical cases in the morning: we examined each candidate in pairs. In the afternoon there were two vivas for each examinee.

Urology passed 7 out of 9 candidates with a noticeable improvement in the standard since I started examining in 2016. The highlight for me was that both female candidates, Martha and Annah, passed and Martha won the gold medal.



Dr Namugga Martha Monicah



Dr Ainembabazi Annah Tinka

Urolink had, at the request of COESCA, organised sponsorship for both girls to attend the exam (one by the Newson Foundation and the other directly from Urolink).

The examiners have remained fairly consistent over the last few years (with the addition of a number of young African Urologists) which has been helpful. The plan over the next year is to start building a bank of questions for the vivas. We discussed the need for having patients present, but it was still felt to be beneficial at present.



The examiners for the Urology FCS exam in Windhoek

Next year will be in Addis – and I expect the number of candidates may increase as it is easier and cheaper to get there.

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