

# MY Tri-C STORY



## Issam S. Abedrabbo

Associate of Applied Science degree in Radiography | 1997

### Tri-C Experience

Issam grew up in Amman, Jordan, and moved to the United States in his late teens. Living in the United States provided him with many opportunities, including the pursuit of an education and career. "I attribute a huge piece of my success to the Radiography program at Tri-C because it allows students to practice the knowledge learned in the classroom at their clinical sites," Issam said. He also credits the great working relationship Tri-C has with top clinical sites and the mentoring students receive throughout their clinical rotations. Issam added, "During clinical semesters, I had to complete a competency checklist for all exams and procedures to qualify to sit for the board exam. This model is proven and works well."

### Career Success

As the director of imaging at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi (CCAD), Issam provides direction and leadership to the diagnostic imaging department and ensures the unit is aligned with the Clinic's strategic direction and Patients First initiative. "I consider myself lucky for joining the CCAD project that is transferring an American health care system overseas," Issam said. With a project of this scope comes many challenges, but Issam finds this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity rewarding. He has not only impacted lives in Northeast Ohio, but also thousands of miles away in Abu Dhabi.

### Making a Difference

"I enjoy clinical work, direct patient interaction and the new experience every day brings," Issam said. He believes caregivers need to be mindful of confidentiality requirements, different cultures and traditions of the patients they care for. During his years at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, he volunteered as an interpreter for foreign patients from the Middle East. He was able to help relieve the stress that comes with being in a different culture and provide patients with a sense of calm as they dealt with their health concerns.

### Advice for Students

For students, Issam stresses that one must master the clinical component of the program and have exposure to all types of health care settings. "Understanding workplace processes, how things work from an operational perspective and knowing milestones a patient has to touch on in order to complete one's journey in radiography are equally essential," Issam said. He added, "Information technology is a big component in radiography in order to know how systems are integrated. Be curious and the first to learn the new piece of equipment or the software package being installed." For aspiring health care professionals, Issam suggests that to be a good caregiver you must be passionate about health care, and adaptability is a must.

[tri-c.edu/radiography](http://tri-c.edu/radiography)

*Issam is a Lakewood High School graduate and North Olmsted resident. He is married with two sons. After earning an Associate of Applied Science degree in Radiography, he went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Allied Health and Master of Business Administration degree in International Business from Baldwin-Wallace College.*