

Feed back of ASGBI bursary award visit to the surgical congress in Bournemouth, May 2011

I am a registrar in general surgery at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka currently undergoing the third year of my pre-MD (Surgery) training. I was an international bursary winner to attend the ASGBI surgical congress and pre congress activities in Bournemouth in May, 2011. This visit was a land mark in my surgical career opening up the windows to the international surgical arena where I could witness and share the latest developments in the field of surgery. I could meet surgical professionals from all over the world and share their experiences.

During the pre congress period we were hosted at the North Hampshire Hospital Foundation Trust and the Southampton Hospitals NHS Trust. There we could witness the latest developments in the field of surgery and observe the way the curative aspect of the health care system operates in the UK. Meeting renowned senior surgical professionals whom I have only noted in surgical journals was a great experience. Intermingling with the surgical trainees and undergraduates at Southampton hospital was fascinating and I was quite pleased to see how research processes are carried out at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The scientific congress was well organized and was thought provoking. I really enjoyed the sessions on 'when things go wrong', stem cell transplant and metastatic malignancies. Industrial exhibition provided us some technological insight to the surgical craftsmanship including basic and advanced laparoscopic training. The social events including the gala dinner was entertaining. The stay at the Royal Exeter hotel was enjoyable. The general organization of the whole process needs to be highly appreciated. As I have to complete one year of foreign training in next few years to come, this visit to UK was an ideal experience for me to understand the NHS structure and its function.

Finally I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the ASGBI, the international development committee and the corporate patrons for providing bursaries for us, trainee surgeons from developing countries to enlighten our careers. I wish the organizers success in their future endeavors and hope that this process would continue in a broader way in the future to host more trainees from our part of the world.

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