

**Dr. Randima Nanayakkara**  
**Colombo, Sri Lanka**

ASGBI Conference 2011 is a memorable one to me. The organizing team should be commended on the excellent manner in which each event of the programme was planned and executed. The organizers deserve our unreserved approval and appreciation. ASGBI provides a great opportunity for the trainees from under-developed countries, to share the experiences of a developed country and be exposed to its health, curative and surgical facilities. In brief, the programme conducted by ASGBI can be classified as a world class conference.

We were provided very comfortable accommodation at the Royal Exeter Hotel in Bournemouth, right opposite the conference hall for a period of 6 days. The hotel was well equipped with all facilities including a pool, gymnasium and bar. Bhavnita and the organizers of the conference saw to it that our stay was a comfortable and an enjoyable one.

The theme of the conference '21<sup>st</sup> Century Surgery', was highly topical, and the lectures and symposia enabled us to broaden our horizon and knowledge in regard to the latest diagnostic technologies, developments and techniques of surgery. In particular, the workshop organized by Ethicon-Endosurgery was very educative and informative. ASGBI had a well planned programme for the conference and its invitees (bursary winners). I should say that the overall event from the moment I was awarded the bursary, was well planned, coordinated and executed to my entire satisfaction.

During the two days preceding the conference, we were attached to a couple of hospitals in Dorset and Hampshire. This provided the budding surgeons from developing countries a considerable insight into the theatre set up and witness live surgeries at leading hospitals in the region. I would indeed count it a privilege to be granted an opportunity of watching Mr. Merv Rees perform two liver resections with excellent expertise, skill and finesse. Further, the discussions with Mr. Bailey and Mr. Smallwood at the Southampton hospital were very inspiring and thought provoking.

The gala dinner was an enthralling evening. We were able to mingle with the surgical giants from the United Kingdom while enjoying a delightful dinner. A special event was organized to award the certificates to the international bursary winners on the final day and I consider it a great honour to represent my country on these occasions.

The city of Bournemouth is a beautiful costal city with a mix of modern and old architecture. The Bournemouth pier, the aquarium, gardens and the Russell-Cotes Museum are few of the places of interest that I visited and cherish every moment of it.

It is with immense pleasure that I thank the President, members of ASGBI, the Surgical Foundation and Bhavnita for their assistance, encouragement and co-operation extended to me and all other bursary winners making ASGBI Conference 2011 a great success. I hope this report on my experience and exposure as an international bursary winner would encourage other aspirants from my country and region to apply for the same in the future.