



2017 ASGBI International Bursary Winner Report

Ms Vivian V Akello (Uganda), May 2017

General Surgeon/Lecturer at Kampala International University

It took me about a year to finally get to the ASGBI conference due to numerous hurdles with respect to my visa, but it was worth the wait!

After arriving on 30th April 2017 and a good night's rest, we went for a tour of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow. Despite it being a public holiday, we took part in the ward round of the surgical wards; it was an exciting experience appreciating the expansive size of the ward, the different locations and organisation of surgical patients. The following day we went to theatre where we witnessed laparoscopic treatment of a tubo ovarian abscess with a colo-uterine fistula and laparoscopic total colectomy with J pouch creation. The team work with defined roles for each individual, and the availability of the resources and supplies giving the patient the best care is a dream I hope we will realize soon in Uganda.

On the same day we visited the office of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. I was astounded; there was the Lister room, his graduation gown, his carbolic acid spray canister (temporary at the building) and a table of the Lister ward. It was a pleasant surprise to see belongings of Joseph Lister, one of the founders of modern day surgery, and exciting to learn about the 400 years plus history of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow - such an honour.

The conference opened on 3rd May 2017; the organisation was impeccable, the presentations impressive. Though what weighed heavily on my mind were the talks given by Catherine Calderwood on the concept of realistic medicine and the various talks given on safety in surgery and healthcare as a whole. These talks were eye openers for me and probably a turning point in my career. Vital areas rarely emphasized in medical schools which make a huge difference to the patient. I hope to incorporate these con-

cepts in my career and influence my students and peers too. I am currently drafting an article on safety in health-care which I hope to disseminate to my colleagues.

It wouldn't be fair not to mention the dinner, besides the academic and professional benefits of the bursary, we also got to dance the ceilidh (I didn't know I was a natural at it), and enjoy Scottish delicacies - the lingering taste of Haggis pakora.

All of this was made possible by the generous bursary awarded by the ASGBI and the BJS Society. I would like to thank the team at ASGBI, especially Bhavnita who ensured that we made it to Glasgow and gave us the necessary help, Lynsey who made our stay memorable, and my sponsors who ensured my comfort. I wish also to thank the event organisers and the wonderful people I met at the conference and in Glasgow who made us feel at home.



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Vivian with her fellow bursary winners and ASGBI General Manager, Bhavnita Patel

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Mr Vladimir Cojocari (Moldova), May 2017

4th Year General Surgery Resident, State Medical and Pharmaceutical University of Moldova

An excellent achievement has a name and a story behind. The international bursary granted me in 2017 from ASGBI/BASO stands as a milestone in my surgical career. This program offered for surgeons native of developing economies, including Republic of Moldova, provided me with the unique opportunity to acknowledge with outstanding UK healthcare. The bursary included a perfectly-organized scientific and social program, completely financially covered, with a 2 days' hospital observation and further prominent event-attendance - Safer Surgery 2017 Glasgow Surgical Week. Acquaintance with the impressive city of Glasgow was extremely facilitated due to the allowance of £125 each received, so we shared traditional haggis pakora, outstanding local hospitality and the windy sunny Clyde. During the entire stay I was hosted at Hilton Garden Inn, a hotel extremely cosy placed in city centre, just at some feet distance from the Congress venue.

My experience at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Glasgow begun in the Monday morning, Labour Day, meeting Dr. Simon Gibson, a receptive and highly-competent consultant upper-GI surgeon, whom I joined for the morning patient rounds. It was impressive to see just single-patient rooms, multipotent IT system of case files, handy paper files and indications. Although no electives

for that day, 6 emergent interventions were undertaken by Dr. Tarek Katbeh, who exigently performed and kindly answered to relevant questions. In the midst of, ward consultations and multidisciplinary management proved at high level. The next day, a challenging laparoscopic sigmoid colectomy was remarkably performed by Dr. Richard Malloy, an experienced colorectal consultant surgeon, assisted by an ST-2 - whom quite a significant operative part was entrusted. It was amazing to see no impediments in consumables, state-of-the-art devices and highly skilled manoeuvres, supported with diligent anaesthesiology that assured wide-range of patient repositions. Lots of simultaneous interventions, fully-equipped interventional radiology suite, even DaVinci Xi robotics describe the fabulous potential of this super hospital.

While at the ASGBI Congress, an extended range of actual surgical background was considered. There were first class-reports, with hues of refined British humour treating challenging aspects, and otherwise - approaching advanced high-yield issues. It was an outstanding scientific oratory peculiar with intelligent sarcastic highlighting of sculpted points. Although I was involved in teaching international students at home department, attended some international conferences, I couldn't ever imagine before surgical English being so potent.

The respectful, hearty attitude was abundantly met ever around. The Congress lasted 3 days and the app easily allowed to choose any section. Especially I enjoyed the sections on HPB, advanced laparoscopic surgery, fellowship experiences, BJS workshop on writing a clinical paper.

Acknowledgment with cutting-edge technologies at industry exhibition proved quite useful, hands-on experience being utmost appreciated. At the prize giving reception I was delighted to



Vlad with the Piper at the ASGBI Gala Dinner at Glasgow City Chambers





receive the certificate of bursary winner from Dr. Edmund Leung from BASO, an ASGBI sponsor who supported me, whom I am extremely grateful.

An exceptional cultural event I was invited at was the Gala Dinner, that proudly has been held at the Glasgow City Chambers. Scottish music, food, and even dance socialized participants in a way I could hardly describe, but it would be suggestive to say that even me, a Moldavian, learned Scottish dances – although not without an impulsion from our coordinator, as I proved not so courageous dancer, so happy credits to Mrs Bhavnita Patel.

During the surgical week I met exceptional surgeons, distinguished professors, remarkable colleagues trainees, shared experience and contacts. This bursary assures a unique opportunity for attendees from developing economies to meet outstanding UK and world professionals and have an inside look at a leading healthcare.



Vlad on his visit to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow

Therefore, I'd like to express utmost gratitude to ASGBI International Development Committee, to sponsors, BASO, to Mr. President Professor Rowan Parks, and enormous special thanks to Mrs Bhavnita Patel, Ms Lynsey Taylor, Dr Edmund Leung.



Benson visiting the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow

ASGBI would like to thank BASO, BJS and People Make Glasgow for sponsoring this year's International Bursaries.

of sponsors to increase so that more bursary winners would attend the future meetings so that the knowledge will go across the world. Long live the queen, long live ASGBI.

Below: Vlad, Benson and Vivian visiting Glasgow Cathedral



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Mr Benson Harrison Lymio (Tanzania), May 2017

My name is Benson Harrison Lymio, currently a third year resident in General Surgery under PAACS and COSECSA at ALMC Arusha, Tanzania. I am married and blessed with a baby girl who just turned one. I am proud to be a Tanzanian and a Christian upcoming surgeon who believes in Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I do not have enough words to explain how thankful I am to have been given a chance to attend the ASGBI Congress in Glasgow. I feel different in a sense that I have learnt a lot when it comes to the performance of safe surgery. The meeting was well organised, and I felt comfortable throughout. The venue, lectures presented by knowledgeable and highly skilled professionals, made for a successful conference in my mind. The care that I and my two friends received from the moment we arrived in Scotland

was beyond imagination, with special thanks to Mrs Bhavnita Patel and Miss Lynsey Taylor.

Aside from the meeting, I had the opportunity to visit places such as the museum, Glasgow City Cathedral and others. I really noticed how friendly people are and admired their culture! Above all, I made friends from many parts of the world, all of whom made me feel like Glasgow is a home away from home.

Many thanks to the sponsors, ASGBI and Glasgow City Marketing Bureau, as well as BJS and BASO for sponsoring my colleagues, and for making it possible for us to attend this great conference.

May God bless you and give long life on earth so that something good as this one would keep happening every year. Moreover, I pray for the number

An Update from the International Development Committee

In January Mr Bob Lane, Programme Director for International Development and Mr Paul Gartell, Module Lead, General Surgery; visited Kenya, as part a Knowledge and Sustainability Grant funded by DFID, to assess the long term outcomes of the Management of Surgical Emergencies (MSE) Courses held between 2012 – 2015 in Nairobi and Lusaka.

This revealed that the impact of the MSE training has been considerable, and that the Course was considered fit for purpose. Furthermore, all Trainers and Trainees interviewed wished that the MSE be made mandatory.

Learn more about The Surgical Foundation, the International Bursary Scheme and the work of the Association's International Development Committee here;

<http://www.thesurgicalfoundation.org.uk/>

In February the UK Faculty completed the sixth and final Anastomosis Workshop in Kigali, Rwanda. Russell Lock, Faculty, has provided an "on the ground" report detailing his involvement with the IDC and his experiences as a Volunteer over many years.

Mrs Judy Mewburn, Chairman of the IDC, also leads the Theatre Nurse Training Courses. She also reports on the visit to Kigali. We have found that getting the nurses to work with the trainees and assist them in the anastomoses worked very well. This generated co-operation and respect both ways, highlighting the benefits of great team work in the Theatre environment.

