

Delegate Report from the BSDS 32nd Annual Surgery Workshop, 13th – 15th May 2014, University of Birmingham Medical School

The BSDS annual surgery workshop was recommended to me by all my registrar colleagues. It was described to me as an intense hands-on course that aims to iron out any bad surgical habits and improves surgical skills.

I was eagerly waiting for the workshop to start and wanted to be taught by experts especially after hearing only positive reviews.

Doctors and nurses at different stages of their surgical training attended this course. The material covered in the workshop ranged from learning about basic dermatological surgical methods, to more complex reconstruction techniques and Mohs Micrographic surgery.



The course ran efficiently with a good mix of lectures and practical sessions. The days were well structured with two blocks of lectures followed by practical sessions.

I found all the lectures very informative and relevant. I particularly enjoyed learning about surgical pearls given by Dr Tu and Dr Colver. Nail surgery was simplified by Dr De Berker who used videos to demonstrate nail biopsies. I found learning from several experts at the same time and getting their opinion on how to close a defect extremely useful. Dr Shah's creation of an e-learning portal has helped me revisit some complex re-construction techniques in my own time.

I found Professor Williams lecture on conducting research in skin surgery very motivational. He emphasised practicing evidence based medicine and encouraged the audience to conduct research by thinking of a question that is unanswered.



The practical sessions were very informative and would normally start off with a group demonstration followed by one-to-one mentoring. I really enjoyed practicing my skills on porcine cadavers which is unique to this workshop. The practical sessions were very popular, and most people used this time to meet their own learning needs. There was also a prize awarded for the best pig which brought out the competitive streak in some of us!

The Gala dinner was on the second day and was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in the heart of Birmingham. This was a chance to unwind after an intense two days.

On the last day there was a comprehensive summary of the course given by Dr Rajpar and a practical session led by Dr Ghura and Dr Shah which helped me consolidate my learning.

In my opinion this workshop should be attended by any healthcare professional with an interest in dermatological surgery

I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience and learned valuable skills that has formed a solid foundation to further my surgical training.



Manisha Rakesh Panchal
ST4 Dermatology
University Hospitals Birmingham