

BSDS Trainee Day – Delegate Review

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I was excited about attending the BSDS Annual Trainee Day this year as the programme looked fantastic and I was keen on expanding my skills and knowledge. This year the participants consisted of a mix of mainly dermatology registrars, staff-grade doctors and nurses; it was great to see so many clinicians attending. There were around 55 participants altogether and the course took place at the BAD House in London. The day started with a brilliant talk on evaluating pigmented lesions with dermoscopy by Dr Minh Lam. Dr Lisa Naysmith then followed with a talk on surgical anatomy; this was very practical and useful to clinical practice. The next talk was by Dr Juber Hafiji and concentrated on perfecting an excision- this was a superb talk and he gave a number of really helpful tips.

After the break, the morning continued with a great talk on different reconstruction techniques, focussing on flap methods by Dr Tom Oliphant. This was great preparation for the afternoon workshops. Dr Jemma Collins closed the morning with her presentation on careers in dermatological surgery. She also went through each of the Mohs fellowships in the UK and discussed timetables, pros and cons. This talk was particularly useful for trainees planning to apply for a Mohs fellowship.

The lunch and coffee breaks gave delegates a great opportunity to network and meet Dermatological Surgeons. There was also the opportunity to chat to a number of Drug Reps from Advanced Medical Solutions, Albert Waeschle Ltd, Alliance Pharma UK Ltd and Almirall Ltd, who kindly sponsored the day.

The afternoon kicked-off with reconstruction workshops. Delegates had the opportunity to attend basic, intermediate or advanced groups, depending on their clinical experience. Each workshop was run by a Dermatological Surgeon. We were provided photos of a surgical reconstruction dilemma and given the opportunity to choose what type of reconstruction we would opt for. We then had to design the reconstruction we chose on the photo. All cases were discussed as a group. This was the most interactive session of the day and it was really fun!

The meeting closed with a presentation on rare skin cancers by Dr Tom Oliphant. This was a really interesting and clinically useful lecture. This was the 4th time I attended the BSDS Annual Trainee Day; each time I attended I have left with new tips and knowledge. This course is aimed at trainees of all levels who perform or who are interested in dermatological surgery. It would also be useful for other clinicians who perform dermatological surgery. I would recommend this course as it is very interesting, practical, clinically relevant and a lot of fun. I personally found this course very inspiring and it confirmed my passion for dermatological surgery!