

BSDS 35th Annual Surgery Workshop, Newcastle
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I would like to send all of you my deep gratitude for awarding me the international scholarship to the 2018 – 35th Annual Surgery Workshop, at Newcastle University.

This year was my first experience at the BSDS Meeting and it was definitely a memorable one, both professionally and personally.

I had the opportunity to meet incredibly knowledgeable professionals, from multicultural backgrounds, with unique perspective and advice on the specialty and patient interaction.

The workshops that I have attended have been a source of great learning opportunities and I feel that each supervisor brought his/her unique style at the table, allowing me to gain new insight on the subjects that I was being taught.

The course was extremely effective regarding the ratio between the time allocated to the theoretical lectures and the notions taught were very well explained and subsequently implemented during the practical workshops after each lecture. I really enjoyed the early morning reconstruction workshops, which were extremely useful because the BSDS members have tried and even managed to create an interactive environment with mutual feedback between us on various practical cases, and very important with an atmosphere which was always informal and very encouraging for each of us.

The level of difficulty has been progressively increased, beginning with essential basic introductory notions in skin surgery such as anatomy, electrocautery / cryotherapy, suture modalities, elliptical standard excisions, biopsy modalities and continuing with advanced skin reconstruction techniques by advancing and rotation flaps as well as up to date theoretical elements such as scar revision, Mohs surgery and of course the complications of all surgical interventions in the dermatological field and, most importantly, what we can do to prevent most of them.

Also, everything that was discussed during the theoretical sessions was covered on the hands -on practical sessions and I could practice on biological material, being closely tutored by the faculty and having enough time to perfect them and to find out all sorts of ways to improve a reconstruction method, even when I thought I could not master it.

Everyone was incredibly welcoming, generous with their time, expertise, and offered to explain absolutely everything that was needed to be understood during the whole course. I must confess that, before this surgical workshop, I felt afraid and intimidated by such an intense curriculum, however, at the end, it was the best experience of my professional career and gave me the necessary knowledge, encouragement and professional confidence that I needed.

It was a highly beneficial educational experience to my dermatological skin surgery practice during my training programme in Romania, and I can honestly say I would not have had this great opportunity to learn so much without the scholarship I have received.

I am very, very grateful to the whole BSDS medical team, the supporting faculty and also to BSDS Executive Officer, Kristina Putzova, for investing their time, goodwill and patience in this wonderful course.

It was indeed a great workshop with a complex programme relevant to my daily dermatological practice, based on a variety of lectures and case discussions and I want to recommend it to all dermatologists interested in the surgical part of this specialty, particularly trainees, who want to improve and update their surgical skills.