

BSDS 36th Annual Surgical Workshop, Dundee.
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The 2019 annual surgery workshop in Dundee saw the coming together of trainees, GPs and nurses from all corners of the UK and beyond at Ninewells hospital and the University of Dundee. Ninewells hospital, famous in surgical circles for its pioneering work in laparoscopic surgery in the UK, is home to an excellent dermatology department with a multitude of specialty clinics including a Mohs service. Organisation of this meeting was led by consultant dermatologist Dr Andy Affleck who specialises in Mohs surgery and Psychodermatology and, as became evident, isn't half bad at Ceilidh dancing either!

The workshop was conveniently organised over a 3 day period including an excellent mix of both faculty led talks and practical sessions on porcine skin. During their talks, faculty members were able to effectively cover material to benefit both those with little experience of dermatological surgery and also those more confident in their surgical skills, offering excellent tips and tricks. Talks were organised in such a way that the complexity of the skills covered progressed nicely over the 3 days, starting from topics such as tips on local anaesthetic, C+C and cryotherapy and finishing with advanced flaps, complications and Mohs surgery. The histological processing of the latter was creatively explained with the use of a cherry pie and a muffin!

Between the talks, delegates were given ample opportunity to practice new skills, revise existing skills and ask plenty of questions to a very helpful and knowledgeable faculty of dermatological surgery experts in the practical sessions. The practical sessions were hosted in a well- equipped lab in the university with faculty members on hand to help delegates to practice skills in a safe learning environment. Along with the rest of the delegates I was very impressed with the high ratio of faculty members to delegates and their willingness and kindness to spend their valuable time helping us to develop our surgical skills. Having feedback from such a broad faculty offered an unrivalled opportunity to pick up different approaches and surgical tips regardless of your current surgical level.

Each morning, prior to the commencement of the main programme, delegates were invited to small interactive group seminars. Faculty members produced images of surgical defects and delegates could suggest different approaches for reconstruction. These sessions further enhanced the learning experience by enabling us to try to design closures using knowledge developed in the main programme.

Networking opportunities were aplenty during the well placed breaks with excellent catering - not to mention the daily additional treats, including the popular Irn-Bru fudge and homemade Flapjack!

The gala dinner on Tuesday night delivered a further opportunity for networking between delegates and faculty members. After a well-received address from the BDS president, Dr Vindy Ghura, we settled down for a 4 course meal and an evening of Scottish entertainment. What better way to celebrate such a gathering than a good old Scottish Ceilidh! As I have previously alluded, Dr Affleck and his team were straight up to show the rest of us the ropes before the floor was filled with smiling faces and laughter whilst 'stripping the willow.'

On behalf of all delegates I would like to offer a huge and sincere thank you to all of the faculty members and particularly to Kristina, Dr Affleck and his Scottish team for organising such a fantastic workshop for us this year. I would highly recommend this annual workshop to other dermatology trainees of all levels, as well as other allied specialties and nurses in future years.