

Alan Gordon Travelling Fellowship Report – David Rowlands 2019

My thanks to the BSGE for helping support further development of nerve sparing surgery at the Wirral BSGE Endometriosis Centre and also in promoting on-going education in the field.

We have long believed in sustainable service development alongside individual development and for the first time the BSGE awarded this as a joint award so that colleagues from the same centre could train together – this is extremely progressive and we thank the BSGE for that.

I am sure all laparoscopic surgeons will be appreciating the enhanced surgical views that on-going developments in optical technology are giving us (HD, 3D etc), the finer anatomy that we are seeing, and (in our opinion) the need to fully appreciate that anatomy in terms of function relating to disease and effects of surgery (destruction or conservation) on the patient.

To that end we have undertaken a 4 stage process.

- A) Basic and Advanced, Intensive, Hands-on, Cadaveric Course on Laparoscopic Surgical Anatomy for Abdomino-Pelvic Surgery with 3D Technology with the ISSA in Tübingen, Germany with Course President M. Ceccaroni, International Faculty and delegates – streamed to their experience and objectives for the course. We had an intensive 3 day course learning from each other and from our preceptors.
- B) Followed by invited visitation to Negrar, Verona, Italy to observe pelvic nerve sparing in endometriosis with Professor Marcello Ceccaroni, M.D., Ph.D. This is where we saw education put into practice – seeing how another unit works, the advantages of centralisation of larger numbers of cases and tips which we have subsequently introduced into our own theatre – not least improved ergonomics for all of the team as well of course more nerve sparing surgical technique
- C) Followed by development of more nerve sparing surgery at Wirral BSGE Endometriosis Centre with my colleague Dr Nahid Gul (who was also successful in support) we believe to the benefit of our patients.
- D) Followed by the first fresh cadaveric surgical anatomy course organised and run by Dr Gul (assisted by myself, colorectal and urology surgeons) in Liverpool University. This also included fantastic support from two of our preceptors from the Tübingen course Dr Shailesh Putambaker (India) and Dr Stefano Uccella (Italy). This attracted delegates nationally and internationally – trainees and established consultants.

Certainly this has been an extremely valuable process to develop ourselves educationally and also surgically to the benefit of our patients but also then to introduce and continue this education process available for laparoscopic surgeons of all ages and abilities going forward.

Again our thanks to the BSGE for supporting this training and we very much appreciate their support with the Alan Gordon Travelling Fellowship and that this investment benefits not only ourselves in terms of personal development, but by making this a joint award benefitting a sustainable service for our patients and on-going education for current and future laparoscopic surgeons. As Graucho Marx said 'If you think education is expensive, what price ignorance?'

David Rowlands June 2019