

BSGE TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP 2017

FINAL REPORT

Recipient: Dr Ivilina Pandeve

Introduction/Background

It is with great pleasure that I write this report. I have recently returned from a 3 weeks' honorary placement with the Department of Urogynaecology at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia for the period of the 20th of March until the 7th of April 2017.

This has been a most valuable and rewarding opportunity and I am truly grateful to the BSGE for helping me to facilitate this training experience.

Progress/Update

During the time spent in Melbourne, I was supervised directly by Dr Marcus Carey and Dr Salwan Al-Salihi and was attached directly to their unit. I worked along side the current subspecialist trainee in the unit as well as all the consultants Urogynaecologists.

On a daily basis, I attended operating theatres and observed multiple surgical procedures performed vaginally or via the minimally access route- either laparoscopically or robotically assisted. I observed 5 robotic sacrocolpopexies for the treatment of pelvic organ prolapse including patient positioning, port placement, robot docking and course of the robotically assisted procedures.

I gained understanding of the logistics, challenges and also the pros and cons of using a surgical robot.

In addition, I attended regularly specialist Urogynaecology clinics, perineal and urodynamics clinics. I observed the local pathways for managing women following birth trauma, recurrent pelvic organ prolapse and the management of complex patients with mesh related complications.

Part of my job was to help facilitate clinical research projects that were already underway, develop new projects with the team, and help the unit to engage in further collaborative research practice. Currently I lead on a randomised controlled trial between the two units- Cambridge and Melbourne, for which I have already started recruitment in the UK. It was a great opportunity to discuss the progress of the study with the Melbourne colleagues and to help them with their ethics approval progress with the aim to start recruitment in Australia as well.

This study is looking at prolapse surgery and techniques for optimizing outcomes for native tissue repair.

In addition to research roles, I had the opportunity alongside Dr Marcus Carey and Dr Felicity Gould (both specialist urogynaecologists) to be involved in the organisation of the Annual Urogynaecology meeting of Australia and New Zealand run in Melbourne.

I participated in the development of surgical pathways for the treatment of stress urinary incontinence, overactive bladder and pelvic organ prolapse. These pathways are expected to be adopted by the Urogynaecology Society and RANZOG.

I also facilitated the pre-conference Laparoscopic workshop where I taught and supervised laparoscopic suturing and techniques for mesh attachment to the vaginal vault.

Further, I delivered a talk on Research Methodology and tips and tricks on getting research published at the Trainees Workshop as part of this annual meeting. The feedback received was very positive.

Finally, probably the most valuable part of my time in Melbourne was the opportunity to develop relationships with colleagues in Australia. I was made very welcome by the entire team and I have

been fortunate to built a strong bond with the medical and nursing staff at the unit. I hope that this time in Melbourne will now mark the beginning of a long relationship of collaboration.

Conclusions

The experience that have been given to me by this time in Australia will have a long term impact on so many facets of my practice. The combination of innovation experience, research experience and clinical experience have served to broaden my armamentarium of skills and stand me in good stead for the future. I feel very fortunate to have gained another wonderful teacher and mentor in Dr Carey, and likewise to have developed long lasting collaborative relationships with my colleagues in Australia. I look forward to many years of working together with the team and I thank the BSGE for helping to facilitate this.

Kind Regards

Avilina Pandeva

09/04/2017

