

The TWJ Foundation

18th International Otology Course, Béziers.

Many thanks for providing financial assistance towards my recent visit to the Causse Clinic in Béziers, France where I attended the 18th International Otology Course. I have just returned from what was an extremely informative and enlightening programme of lectures, discussion and live surgery.

I am in my first year as a consultant and work within a busy district general as the sole otologist. My busy caseload primarily involves tympanomastoid surgery for squamous and mucosal chronic otitis media and ossiculoplasty work consequent to this. I also provide a stapedotomy service in conjunction with a surgical mentor at another trust. The conference provided an opportunity to discuss recent, difficult cases, with international colleagues of substantial experience and also to get an update on current best practice. Particularly interesting discussion surrounded the use of different grafting materials and their pros and cons and a review of currently available ossicular prostheses. Live surgery included stapedotomy (brilliantly performed by Robert Vincent – a real inspiration to the young otologist!), active middle ear implants (the Vibrant Sound Bridge) and some very challenging cholesteatoma surgery (most reassuring to confirm that even the most experienced surgeons have difficult cases, not just first year consultants). As the sole otologist in my unit I feel it is especially important to attend meetings such as this so that I may stay tuned into the wider otology community, thus helping ensure that I provide the very best, evidence based, care to my patients. Your very generous funding has greatly supported this endeavour.

Many thanks, once again.

Simon Prowse

Consultant ENT Surgeon, Hereford County Hospital