

## **TWJ Short Fellowship report**

### **Combined Universities Advanced Otology Surgery Course in Manchester, UK**

**June 8-10<sup>th</sup> 2022**

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Covid-19 limited the opportunities to attend overseas otology courses/short fellowships in 2020 and 2021. The TWJ Foundation kindly supported me to attend the 32<sup>nd</sup> Combined Universities Advanced Otology Course in Manchester.

The 3-day course was organised by Professor Simon Lloyd and held at the Manchester Surgical Skills Centre and Simulation Centre. The course is limited to 12 delegates (mostly senior trainees, otology fellows and Otology consultants). The world-class faculty included 4 Otology professors (Prof Manohar Bance, Prof Rory McConn-Walsh, Prof Shak Saeed and Prof Simon Lloyd) and 3 distinguished otologists (Mr Jonny Harcourt, Mr Patrick Spielmann and Mr Richard Irving). The surgical skills lab was well equipped with good quality microscopes and endoscopes.

Each day started with teaching sessions with high-definition video presentations and discussion of different surgical techniques. This was a great introduction and set the objectives for the cadaveric dissections. In the afternoons there were case-based discussions which were interactive and highlighted areas of controversy, complications and variability in clinical practice. There were also live surgical demonstrations daily.

Each delegate had 2 cadaveric temporal bones to dissect. The course included soft tissue approaches (postauricular, endaural approaches, tympanomeatal and conchomeatal flaps, cartilage harvesting), cortical mastoidectomy, epitympanotomy, posterior tympanotomy, facial nerve decompression, sigmoid sinus decompression, endolymphatic sac decompression, labyrinthectomy, translabyrinthine and middle fossa approaches to cerebellopontine angle. There was plenty of time to dissect and ask questions. The faculty members were very approachable, encouraging and provided feedback on a regular basis. I learned a huge amount and picked up tricks of advanced otology surgery well beyond what I had gained from standard temporal bone courses. Particular highlights for me were canal obliteration surgery and the infracochlear approach to petrous apex.

Representatives from medical technology companies were present and provided equipment for the course and support in using the different products. This meant we could try all the different brands of cochlear implants, PORP, TORP, stapes prosthesis, bone-anchored hearing devices and middle ear implants. The opportunity to immediately compare between the different devices available was brilliant and it is certainly an advantage of attending this course.

I look forward to putting in practice all the newly acquired skills from the course and feel very grateful to the TWJ foundation and the course faculty for this brilliant learning opportunity. I would thoroughly recommend this course to any senior trainee looking to expand their surgical expertise in Otolaryngology.