

55th Nijmegen Ear Surgery Course, February 2020

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Just before the start of COVID, I was privileged to have the opportunity to attend the Nijmegen Ear Surgery course as part of a CWJ Short Fellowship. The programme consisted of a number of topics spanning the whole of otology, including complex otology, facial nerve reanimation, auditory implantation and lateral skull base surgery. These thought-provoking lectures and panel discussions, coupled with daily temporal bone dissection, made it far and away the best course I have ever attended. As an Otologist having just finished training and about to embark on consultant life, I found the whole experience immensely helpful for what lay ahead.

The standard of teaching delivered by the international and national faculty at the prestigious Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre was excellent. It was also refreshing to receive talks from high calibre surgeons from Denmark, Italy, Belgium, Germany and the UK. Delegates at the course were also from various other corners of the world including Finland, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Italy and Japan. This provided a wonderful opportunity to discuss differences and similarities in clinical practice. Some of the valuable relationships formed during this course allowed me to keep in touch with delegates over COVID and gauge how otology practice was affected in their centres first hand, which gave me a unique and remarkable insight of what was happening around the globe.

The social programme complemented the course well and it was lovely to chat and enjoy a laugh with the friendly and accessible faculty during the evenings. Transport to and from the accommodation made things easy and improved the fluency of each day. Breaks were timed appropriately during each day and the standard of catering facilities was high. Although I did not get the opportunity to explore the city as much as I would have liked to on this occasion, Nijmegen, as the oldest city in the Netherlands is littered with history and had a lovely atmosphere.

There was so much fantastic content and drilling exposure at this course, it is arguably the only course I would consider attending twice!