

Educational Travel Grant Fellowship Report

Centre Visited: German Aortic Centre, University Medical Centre Hamburg- Eppendorf-Hamburg

Surgeon visited: Professor Tilo Kölbel

Purpose: Gain experience in advanced endovascular aortic interventions.

I trained in vascular surgery in the UK and developed an interest in aortic surgery early in my training. Understanding endovascular aortic graft materials, characteristics and deployment techniques are essential to tailor the treatment for each patient anatomy, with advancement of endovascular techniques to tackle different aortic pathology, it is essential to every vascular surgeon dealing with this challenge pathology to be familiar with different treatment options.

My interest in endovascular/open aortic surgery, lead me to join the vascular surgery team at Southampton University hospital, which is a tertiary vascular centre cover two million populations. I had to opportunity to acquire endovascular skills, gain exposure to thoracic and abdominal endovascular aneurysm repair.

I joined Professor Kölbel's team at the German Aortic Centre at the University Medical Centre Hamburg-Eppendorf for one month fellowship. Professor Kölbel is well recognising figure in endovascular aortic aneurysm repair with an impressive innovation and academic tract records. I had the opportunity to have exposure at the forefront of endovascular aortic aneurysm repair including aortic arch repair, BEVAR, IBEVAR, Type B Aortic dissection repair, false lumen management techniques including endovascular fenestration, Candy plug and knickerbocker techniques, type 1, 3 Endoleak post FEVAR/EVAR/Branched and complex aortic condition secondary to connective tissue disease. The team has five operating lists a week , I was mainly attached to Prof Kolbel and Dr Giuseppe whom thankfully simplified complex endovascular techniques specially in challenging and redo endovascular intervention.

I have a weekly meeting with Prof Kolbel to discuss different cases and techniques which was of a very high educational value specially in complex cases. I got the opportunity to develop my ability to think and break down complex problems into workable patterns.

I am looking forward to applying the knowledge I gained in Hamburg centre on my practice and be able to help more patients in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank the ESVS, Prof Kölbel , Dr Giuseppe, administrative staff and hybrid OR team for their support and help during my stay in Hamburg.

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