

Report - EFORT Travelling Fellowship

France
01 – 07 April 2012

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Report of EFORT travelling fellowship: Spring 2012 France

The aims of the EFORT travelling fellowship as defined by the society are "To enhance and unify orthopaedic training, continuous medical education and knowledge transfer". But just as important as teaching is to "support and create new personal bonds to improve mutual understanding, collaboration ...".

Having applied through the BOA I was delighted to receive confirmation that I have been nominated to be the British representative. 13 other resident surgeons were also selected through their respective organisations to participate.

The spring fellowship of 2012 was held in France. We all arrived from our individual destinations to Marseille to be greeted by Professor Jean-Noel Argenson. Formal introductions were made over dinner and the programme was outlined. The next day we were transferred to the hospital where over the course of 3 days we had the opportunity to participate in lectures, live surgery and discussion about total hip and knee arthroplasty, osteotomies around the knee and techniques of ACL reconstruction. Each of the visiting fellows also had the opportunity to conduct a short presentation illustrating the differences in orthopaedic practice, training and experience from their differing centres in Europe. The team at Saint Marguerite hospital in Marseille included Professor Xavier Flecher, Sebastian Parratte with a visit from Professor Neyret and Servien from Lyon. Their experience, dedication, professionalism and knowledge is truly outstanding and we were made to feel very welcome.

After 3 days we then transferred to our base via a 2-hour coach drive in Nice where Professor Trojani met us for dinner at the hotel. Over the next 2 days spent at the hospital we had the opportunity to observe Professor Trojani and Bioleau conduct live surgery. The main impact for me was the volume and efficiency of surgery that could be conducted in a day. By 3:30pm a total of 6 primary arthroplasty operations had been conducted with a further two revisions!

The evenings were spent dining and indulging in French wine in Nice and one night spent dining in Monaco with the French surgeons. On the Saturday the fellows had the opportunity to spend a little time relaxing on the Promenade des Anglais and old port area before we then transferred individually for our homeward journeys.

Overall the French EFORT travelling fellowship was very well organised. Our French hosts were highly skilled and accommodating to all our needs. The trip also provided me with a better appreciation of orthopaedic training and service setups in France and other parts of Europe.

The group of travelling fellows all got on really well. There is nothing like French wine to help create integration between differing cultures. All the fellows spoke good English and I am pleased to say that over the week we have all developed bonds. Having arrived in France as colleagues by the end of the week we left as friends. Already plans are set in discussion to meet again at future EFORT congresses.

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I am grateful to EFORT, SOFCOT and the BOA for the opportunity to participate in the spring fellowship to France. It was a wonderful experience and I would truly recommend this opportunity to future registrars.

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