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Introduction:

I am a 5th year resident of Orthopaedic surgery in Slovenia (out of 6 years). My main interests are hip and knee arthroplasties, sports orthopaedics and osteotomies around the knee. I have applied for this fellowship to gain a more broader perspective of functioning of health care system in Ireland and to exchange valuable experience between my peers around Europe.

Detailed description of the fellowship:

Unfortunately I arrived to Dublin one day after the beginning of the fellowship. Being one day late, I immediately took a coach and joined the group in Belfast, where I met the president of IOA Mr. David Beverland. We listened to some interesting talks about THA. The sheer volume of Mr. Beverland's surgeries with a combination of his Hip Outcome unit is really remarkable. After the lectures we got transferred to Malmaison Hotel in Belfast and met for a casual dinner.

The next day we managed to get a glimpse into the Trauma care in Northern Ireland. The system looks amazing, especially taking in mind the huge volume of trauma they managed in the era of bomb attacks. In the afternoon we took a tour at the Titanic museum – the famous ship was built in Belfast. The rest of the story is known to virtually everyone. We then got transferred back to Dublin. In the evening we got a chance to meet with some of the local orthopaedic trainees and exchange some opinions and experience.

We spent the third day in Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital. The morning was reserved for visitations of the Operating theatre and X-ray clinic. In the afternoon we got a very interesting talk on Bone tumors by Mr. Gary O'Toole. The lecture perfectly summarized all the important aspects of common bone tumors. In the afternoon we visited one of the biggest brands in Ireland – The Guinness store. The evening was reserved for a traditional Irish dinner and dancing at Johnie Foxs Restaurant.

The fourth day we got a transfer to The Heritage Hotel in Portlaoise to attend the Irish Orthopaedic Association annual scientific meeting. Next to a great scientific programme we got some more time to spend with all the fellows, so we could really debate all the differences and similarities in our training in various countries. With that we really widened our perspectives with gaining some very good friends along the way.

Conclusion:

The travelling fellowship in Ireland was organised to perfection. It was a nice blend of scientific programme with some interesting lectures and getting to know some of the symbols of Ireland on the other side. We were really lucky, because the whole group of fellows was really interesting and compatible, so I am sure that all of us made some great friendships that will last a lifetime.