

Being a dynamic field, Orthopaedics demands for constant interaction with national and international orthopaedic surgeons in addition to surgical training and academics. We also believe that such interactions make us wiser and help us in improving our knowledge, management and surgical skills. So, we were delighted when we were selected for ISKSAA Basel fellowship in Basel University Hospital.

On the completion of our ISKSAA Basel fellowship 2018 in Basel University Hospital from 4th June 2018 to 15th June 2018, we would like to thank Prof. Lalit Maini, Prof. Pushpinder Bajaj, Prof. Niklaus Friederich and entire ISKSAA committee for providing us such a great opportunity.

I (Dr. Tarun Verma) and Dr. Nayeem Zafar Hali started our journey on 2nd June 2018. We got a warm welcome when we arrived in Switzerland. It was a wonderful experience for us from “Summer school” at Engelberg to “Surgeries” in Basel.

The Summer School

We were fortunate to attend the Summer School organized by Bio-medical Engineering department of Basel University in the initial three days of our fellowship from 4th June to 6th June 2018. We had a great time in “Zschokke House” at the “Summer school”. A few technical talks went over our heads, but there were many interesting talks on medical applications, which really fascinated us. I would like to thank Prof. Niklaus for giving me the opportunity to present on virtual planning and 3D printing applications in orthopaedics. So, finally we both ended up getting wiser regarding virtual planning, 3D printing, laser osteotomy, robotics, needle steering and augmented reality. There was an augmented reality demonstration which was very exciting as it was our 1st experience of medical application of this technology. We had a very comfortable stay at “Gasthaus Gerschnialp- Café Ritz” in Engelberg and we liked the surroundings a lot. Morning walk to the Zschokke House was

refreshing. Also, our fun trip with Prof. Niklaus to “Titlis” in the “Gandola” is still imprinted in our minds.

Basel University Hospital

We must say that Orthopaedic department of Basel University hospital is very well organized and maintained. We liked our time in operating rooms and it was a good learning experience. We attended the morning conference, surgeries, virtual simulation training for arthroscopy and anatomy dissection class during our fellowship in Basel from 7th June to 15th June 2018.

Surgeries: We observed various surgeries in the OR and also scrubbed in for three cases. Both of us had a good exposure to posterior approach for total hip arthroplasty (THA), but minimally invasive anterior approach is something which was new to us. We also realized how important it is to have proper offset instrumentation, assistance and mobile leg positioner for anterior approach. There was another interesting case of acetabular reconstruction and THA in acetabulum fracture patient. Apart from this, we observed subtalar arthrodesis, distal biceps tendon rupture repair, proximal humerus osteosynthesis, ACL reconstruction, meniscal repair, internal bracing for ACL, TKR and revision for broken tumour prosthesis. We were also scrubbed in for the autologous cartilage implantation surgery for patellar cartilage defect. Entire orthopaedic team and staff in OR were very friendly to both of us. This experience definitely helped us in improving our understanding and also cleared our queries.

Virtual simulation lab: We loved to practice on the knee simulator available in the virtual simulation lab. We spent atleast 2-3 hours each day with the knee simulator. We found it very useful for improving skills of knee arthroscopy and hand eye coordination.

Anatomy dissection room: We are very impressed with the fact that training for surgical approaches on cadavers is an integral part of orthopaedic curriculum for residents in Basel

University hospital. They have anatomy class on one particular approach every Wednesday. We had a great time on doing approaches around the ankle (topic of the day) on 13th June. We feel these methods of residency training are very unique and absolutely valuable for better education.

We liked our last day tour to “Biomedical Engineering” department and we appreciate this concept of collaboration. The work being done is commendable and fascinating.

Prof. Niklaus helped us out and guided us in every aspect of our fellowship, be it regarding hospital or weekend trips. He had been like a local guardian. We had a great time with him having interesting talks about his experiences and suggestions for us.

Of course, on weekends, we were fellows turned into tourists. Dr. Hali and I had a great time visiting various places including Titlis, Luzern, Rigi Mountain, Geneva and Schilthorn. We enjoyed every bit of it.

Further, we attended ISKSAA Leeds, UK 2018 and we must say it was a nicely managed 1st congress of ISKSAA abroad. Altogether, it was a great academic, professional and fun treat for us. We are thankful to ISKSAA for the great experience.

Dr. Tarun Verma

Dr. Nayeem Zafar Hali



With Prof. Niklaus on our last day of the fellowship