

Testimonial – ISKSAA Wrightington Travelling Fellowship, UK

Duration: 2 Weeks (9th June 2025 – 22nd June 2025)

Mentors: Prof. Raj Murali and Prof. Puneet Monga

Fellow: Dr. Harish Kumar,

I am immensely grateful to ISKSAA for granting me the prestigious opportunity to pursue the **Wrightington Travelling Fellowship in the UK** under the guidance of two stalwarts in orthopaedics, **Prof. Raj Murali** and **Prof. Puneet Monga**.

From the moment of selection to travel and accommodation, the entire journey was an enriching experience. Landing in Manchester from the scorching Indian summer to the cool breeze of the UK, and staying in Wigan with daily bus commutes to the renowned **Wrightington Hospital**, was a refreshing shift. The hospital's legacy—being the birthplace of modern hip replacement by Sir John Charnley—made every day feel historic.

My **special thanks** go to **Prof. Raj Murali**, who despite his demanding schedule, personally monitored our progress and made us feel truly welcomed. He gave **special consideration** to our learning objectives, regularly interacting with us to understand how the learning was going, what we had learned, and what we still wished to learn. He actively ensured we had access to those learning opportunities, often coordinating across departments to fulfil our academic needs. His dedication and mentorship were exemplary and deeply appreciated. **Prof. Raj Murali** personally ensured we were exposed to a wide range of **upper and lower limb procedures**, coordinating with lower limb unit to broaden our learning. The fellowship was extremely well-organized, allowing us to plan and observe a diverse range of upper and lower limb cases. Daily OT schedules were shared in advance, ensuring structured observation.

Under **Prof. Puneet Monga**, we witnessed advanced **shoulder arthroplasty** including **total, reverse, revision, customized, RSA in trauma**, along with **cuff repairs, stabilisations**. His structured approach and clinical discussions were deeply insightful. Just before the operation theatre he used to brief all the staff involved in operation theatre about whole day programme, what are they going to do today, what are the critical steps in the surgery and about arrangement of special equipment's etc. We attended the preop case discussion and crucial steps of RSA, TSA, customised RSA, Special thanks to **Dr. Sudhakar**, whose practical demonstrations in **shoulder arthroscopy** and patient interactions were extremely helpful.

We were also privileged to observe numerous **hip and knee arthroplasties**—both **primary and complex revisions**, including **customised cases**—under distinguished surgeons like **Dr. Henry Wynn Jones, Dr. Anil Gambhir, Dr. Peter Kay**, and **Dr. George Pavlovs**. Their openness in sharing surgical tips, intraoperative pearls, and case planning deeply enriched our understanding.

Special mention to **Dr. Simon Barton** for showcasing **robotic unicondylar knee replacements** and advanced **arthroscopic soft tissue procedures** like **ACL reconstruction, trochleoplasty, patellar ligament reconstruction**, and **tibial tuberosity osteotomy**.

Interactions with **Dr. Murtaza Haidermota** and **Dr. Shailendra Singh** (MCh fellows) provided additional support and enhanced our engagement with the lower limb unit.

This fellowship was truly a **once-in-a-lifetime experience**. I extend my sincere thanks to **Dr. Pushpinder Bajaj, Dr. Lalit Maini, Prof. Raj Murali, Dr. Puneet Monga**, and the entire **ISKSAA team** for this exceptional learning platform. ISKSAA has once again proven to be a beacon of opportunity, nurturing young orthopaedic surgeons to broaden their horizons globally.

Dr. Harish Kumar
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