

ISKSAA West Yorkshire UK Traveling Fellowship, (10-11-2025 to 21-11-2025)

My profound gratitude to ISKSAA for the delightful experience of a Soft Tissue Knee & Sports Surgery fellowship at Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Trust, UK. It was delightful to meet Mr. Osman Riaz, a Soft Tissue Knee & Sports Surgery surgeon with unravelling humility and eager to share his surgical experience with others. He certainly got me thinking about double-level knee osteotomies.



Myself, Mr Riaz, Dr Agarwal

Honestly, I was wary of the administrative process at the hospital to secure the fellowship and the extensive documents required for submission in processing my application.

On arrival at Calderdale Royal Infirmary, I met Dr. Pratik Agarwal- the other ISKSAA fellow from India. We both proceeded to the learning centre to complete our local induction and get our identity cards.

Much later that day we met Mr Riaz at the trauma theatre. His easy going demeanor made him relatable and we talked about variety of things. He also briefed us about the weekly work schedule.

The trust employs around 6,000 staff who provide care at its two main hospitals—Calderdale Royal Hospital and Huddersfield Royal Infirmary—as well as in community sites, health centres, and patients' homes. It has about 806 beds. Its services include inpatient care, outpatient clinics, accident and emergency (A&E), therapies, and nursing support, with more than 120,000 inpatient or day-case admissions and over 459,000 outpatient attendances annually 5,500 annual in-patients cases.

We were warmly received by the members of staff of the hospital's orthopaedic department. The only downside was that we were not allowed to scrub in based on hospital policy.

Mr Riaz explained his rationale for choosing between High tibia Osteotomy, Unipolar knee replacement or total knee replacement in some selected cases we saw at the clinic and in theatre.

Over the two weeks, we observed a variety of soft tissue knee and total knee replacement procedures which included double-level knee osteotomy, Unicompartmental knee replacement, Revision ACL reconstruction, and total knee replacement. We also discussed the fundamental concepts about some knee pathologies.

In spite of the cold weather and early sunsets, I travelled through the city public transportation network meeting exciting people and sightseeing the beautiful city. One of the places I visited was the Calderdale Industrial museum which showcased the development of industries in Halifax and Calderdale from domestic textile manufacture in 17th

century to modern-day machines. I also visited the Piece hall.



Dr Agarwal and me

I was fortunate enough to observe Prof. Chakrabarty do a unicompartmental knee replacement. That was the first time I ever witnessed one. He explained the key steps and principles of the procedure. During the second week of my fellowship, I spent some time in theatre with Mr. Aqil and gained great insight into kinematic and Non-kinematic knee replacements. I could not think of a better way to wrap up my fellowship.

I want to express my sincere heart felt gratitude to Mr. Osman Riaz for his kindness and hospitality during my fellowship. For me, this was a wonderful experience that helped me rethink the role of osteotomy in knee problems. My special thanks to Dr. Patrik Agarwal who was a great companion throughout my fellowship. I especially want to thank Prof. Chakrabarty, Mr. Din and Mr. Aqil,

for their support during the fellowship. I am proud to identify with ISKSAA, my sincere gratitude for this splendid opportunity.

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