

ABS International Fellowship

I received the ABS UK travel grant to attend the ABS conference held in Birmingham. Miss Leena Chagla was my host supervisor and I was to meet her and shadow her in her unit in Liverpool after the completion of the conference. After arriving at Birmingham, I prepared to attend the conference the next day and met Miss Chagla and Lucy of the ABS secretariat in the morning during registration. I was given all the information and guidance about the conference. I attended all the sessions of the conference and found it to be very useful and interesting. It was an educational experience with lots of knowledge on the recent advances in breast cancer care and practice. There were also a lot of controversies debated and deliberated which were the most interesting moments in the conference for me. The annual dinner was a good time to meet practitioners of breast diseases around UK and interact and network with them. After the conference Miss Chagla went out of her way to drive me to Liverpool where I would spend the week shadowing her in her unit at St Helen's and Whiston hospital. I had a wonderful experience during my short visit. I got to understand how a one stop breast unit functioned. It was really impressive how smoothly the unit ran, with all members of the team very professional in the way they conducted themselves and managed the cases. The diagnostic component of the breast unit was par excellence and the unit really functioned as a team. I attended the MDT meeting and got to understand the way the cases are deliberated and decisions reached. I also got the opportunity to observe some surgeries where SNL biopsy with radiocolloid was used routinely. Overall it was an enriching experience and I learned a lot regarding the management of early breast cancer in a multidisciplinary setting. Having recently installed a mammogram machine in my hospital it was perfect timing for me as it has helped me establish networks with my host supervisor Miss Leena who has helped me learn about the entire process and has also assured her full support in the coming times. My sincere appreciation for the ABS Office secretariat for the assistance and guidance throughout the conference. I would finally like to thank Miss Leena for her genuine support and care throughout my stay in the UK.

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