

## **International Fellowship Report**

I had great experience at the Burney Breast Unit of St Helen and Knowsley Teaching Hospital, which was organized by Miss Leena Chagla, Consultant Breast Surgeon and Head of the Unit. I was able to attend all the activities that were routine at the department. I was shadowing Miss Chagla most of the time during her clinic days, which included seeing new cases and follow up clinics to give diagnosis plan for treatment including surgery and review clinics after treatment. I was able to increase my knowledge on how much can be done to investigate a patient in an ideal setting with every necessary investigation being in the same premises, able to see different reactions by patients to their diagnosis and treatment, which is quite different from our patients. I was also able to observe her passing on knowledge to her trainees.

I did follow patients through different stages in the clinic and it was exciting to observe how efficient and great it was to have almost everything the patient needs in one centre i.e. mammography, ultrasound and to be able to even do biopsies at the same time and place making it very convenient for both the patient and the staff.

I was also able to visit the chemotherapy unit and observe the set up and care given to the patients all close by to the breast centre with lots of written small booklets for patients to read, something I believe is very valuable and we should be able to do such small booklets giving patients the knowledge to understand their disease and have answers to questions they would have.

I was in theatre to watch lots of breast surgery taking place. I was excited to see how much equipment is used in the operating theatre to make work easy and more importantly, for accuracy of excision margin is amazing. I am looking forward to one day getting operating theatre equipped with such. Miss Chagla and her team gave me a lot of exposure in the theatre to watch different breast surgeries picked a lot of tips to improve on my own skills and experience.

Every week was the MDT. I was able to attend at least 3 meetings. It was great experience for me to see all different experts come together to discuss challenging cases and come up with a way forward. Best organized and well attended by team members picked a few things to improve on our meetings.

I had time to also observe excellent Plastic Breast Surgeons. I had a great time watching them do amazing DIEP free flaps for breast reconstruction this was very exciting because although I am a plastic surgeon doing breast surgery, I had not done and seen DIEP done, so I did learn a lot and hoping soon we can be able to that. I had a great 3 weeks work attachment, learnt a lot, everybody was friendly and gave me a chance to see as much as I could.

My appreciations goes to ABS Office, Miss Chagla and her team including administrative staff and particularly to Mr Richard Rainsbury for getting me in touch with ABS.

Although due to visa issues I missed the ABS conference, I was still able to visit and tour the city of Glasgow.

**Rose Alenyo**

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