

## **BSDS 38th Annual Surgery Workshop, Dundee**

### **Dr Faisal Dubash, ST4, Ninewells Hospital and Medical School**

The 2022 annual surgery workshop was held at Ninewells Hospital & Medical School, University of Dundee. Delegates who attended the 3-day programme included dermatology trainees from the UK and Europe, GP's and allied healthcare professionals.

This course is an essential dermatological surgery workshop for trainees in the UK seeking to fine-tune their surgical skills. After the course, delegates will surely be able to incorporate the many tips gained throughout the programme, into their skin surgery lists.

The timetable combined faculty-led lectures with supervised practical sessions on porcine tissue. Practical sessions were held in a well-equipped university laboratory located nearby to the lecture theatre. Lectures covered fundamental aspects of skin surgery and attendees with all levels of experience could appreciate the course content. Topics covered surgical instruments, the procedure room, surgical techniques and cryosurgery, advanced flaps, scar revision and dealing with complications. All lectures were well received and conveyed important learning points. I found Dr Naysmith's lecture on consent in skin surgery, very useful. It highlighted important principles within the informed consent process, meaningful dialogue and actually led to further journal club discussion with colleagues locally. Dr Wernham's lecture on skin cancer mimics was an excellent refresher, reinforcing awareness of alternative diagnoses.

The early morning reconstruction workshops were a useful format. The faculty divided delegates into small groups, interacting over clinical images of surgical defects. This activity merged theory learned during the course, with critical thinking and led to discussion of suitable options for reconstruction.

Those already doing flaps/grafts could learn from the expertise of faculty members through discussion in the practical sessions and lectures. The format and structure of the lectures allowed for incremental learning. With subsequent lectures, further theory and skills were appreciated and these complemented each practical session.

The practical sessions were an invaluable focal point for delegates throughout the course, with plenty of hands-on opportunities scheduled. Newly learned skills were honed, and you could fine-tune existing techniques, with ample time for feedback or discussion in a supportive learning environment, with faculty members.

There were adequate breaks between sessions, for hot drinks and snacks, socialising and visiting the sponsors/exhibitor stands. The gala dinner on Tuesday evening commenced with lively Scottish country dancing performances, followed by a 3-course meal and opportunity for delegates to socialise in a relaxed environment.

On behalf of all delegates, I would like to extend thanks to the course organisers including Dr Affleck, Blake and all faculty members who travelled from across the UK, to share their expertise and help deliver an excellent programme. All trainees/ healthcare professionals keen on developing their skin surgery skills, should attend this highly recommended course.