

BSDS 39th Annual Surgery Workshop, Newcastle
Dr Sarah Winter, ST3 from Aug 2023, South Wales

The 2023 Annual Surgery Workshop was held in Newcastle Medical School. The three-day course was attended by dermatology trainees, GPs, specialist nurses and allied healthcare professionals. I met several trainees who had travelled from across the UK and afar, including Denmark and Cyprus.

Prior to the workshop, we were provided with a manual and a series of video tutorials to help familiarise ourselves with the techniques. This was helpful to review in advance so that time on the course was best utilised in consolidating our surgical skills.

The course was divided into both lectures and practical sessions and were led by consultant Dermatologists from across the country, providing a wealth of expertise. The lectures provided us with the background theoretical knowledge that we could later apply practically in the workshops. Lectures covered fundamental aspects of skin surgery from surgical instruments to advanced flaps and scar revisions. The practical sessions were invaluable in consolidating the techniques learnt, but also provided an opportunity to get one-to-one advice and supervision from the faculty. The practical sessions complemented the lectures and allowed for incremental learning and development.

The course also offered optional morning workshops, where we were placed into small groups to discuss example patient cases, thinking about possible methods of reconstruction. I thoroughly enjoyed these sessions as they clarified how we can apply the techniques we have learnt to different skin lesion presentations.

It was a sociable course, with plenty of breaks offering refreshments to help keep us going whilst giving us time to get to know other delegates as well as visit exhibitor stands. On the Tuesday, we had a gala dinner where we could relax and enjoy each other's company in a more informal setting with a three course dinner.



I registered for the course as I have had some surgical experience having been a core surgical trainee, and currently I have a strong interest in pursuing cutaneous surgery. This course

really polished my skills in effective skin closure, whilst considering anatomical function and cosmesis that I had not been trained in before. The course broke down complex concepts in graft and flap reconstruction to build confidence in using more advanced techniques in practice. I now have knowledge and skills that I will utilise going forwards in my dermatology career. On a personal level, the course will be even more memorable for me as I received my dermatology ST3 NTN during one of the practical workshops!

The success of the course would not have been possible without the course organisers. On behalf of all the delegates, I would like to offer sincere thanks to Dr Motley and Dr Abbott for their efforts in leading and organising the course, and the time they put in to creating the invaluable educational videos for the course delegates. Additional thanks to Miss Putzova for her help in organising the course. Thank you to all the faculty for all their time and teaching. This was a thoroughly enjoyable and highly educational course that I would recommend to any colleague who is interested in developing their skills in cutaneous surgery.