

Fellowship report

Depuy Johnson and Johnson Indian Orthopaedic Association Foreign Fellowship 2004

I am honoured to submit the report of the Depuy Johnson and Johnson of Indian Orthopaedic Association foreign fellowship 2004. At the outset I would like to thank our past President, Indian Orthopaedic Association, Dr. Praveen Kanabar, Our Hon. Secretary, Indian Orthopaedic Association Dr. H.K.T. Raza, and the Fellowship Secretary Dr. Shantaram Shetty for having selected me for this prestigious fellowship. I would also like to thank Prof. R.H. Govardhan, Past President of Tamilnadu Orthopaedic Association and Mr. Edward, Regional Manager, Depuy Johnson and Johnson Company for helping me to arrange the centre of training.

I started from Chennai on the evening of 15th January 2005 to France via Dubai. On reaching Charles De Gaulle Air port at Paris on 16th January 2005 I was picked up and taken to Bois Guillaume a small town beside Rouen about 170 kms from Paris. Bois Guillaume is of historic value as it was here Joan of Arc lived and was burnt to death. I was received at Hotel Eden by Dr. Jean Luis Briard, renowned joint replacement surgeon attached to Clinique des Cedres a 100 bedded trust hospital.

The training programme started every morning at 7.45 am sharp when Dr. Briard picked me up from my hotel room. The day started with ward rounds which was very informative. I was impressed by the importance given at the center to post operative pain relief which led to earlier rehabilitation of the patients. The way Dr. Briard moved with the patients in the wards and attitude of the patients who were mostly elderly individuals needs special mention. The ward rounds concluded with a visit to the physiotherapy department which was very well equipped. I had the opportunity to observe the patients who had undergone total knee replacement being mobilized very effectively. I was surprised to see the operated patients in the hydrotherapy pool as early as the sixth day.

The operation days (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) were really hectic. Dr. Briard starts to operate by 9.00 am and continues till late evening. I had the opportunity to wash up for every case. It was a treat to watch Dr. Briard operate. I assisted around 15 total knee replacements and 8 unicompartmental

knee replacements. The navigation system was used in a few cases. In addition arthroscopic surgeries of the knee were performed. The method of managing difficulties which arise during total knee replacement surgeries were well demonstrated by Dr. Briard. On a few occasions I had the opportunity to assist Dr. Pascal Vie, another joint replacement surgeon attached to the same institution.

The out patient services (Tuesdays and Thursday s) started at 9.00 am and went on till late night. Total knee replacements with 10-15 years follow up were demonstrated. Complications following total knee replacement were seen and their management discussed. A number of sports injuries to the knee joint were also seen in the out patient services and the appropriate management discussed. The day ended with a planning session for the next day's surgery cases. I also visited the Radiology department where I was shown the latest radiological procedures.

Every evening I was dropped in my hotel room by Dr. Briard. Dr. Briard was kind enough to take me home for dinner on a few occasions after a days work. I can not forget the warm reception offered to me by Mrs. Briard during my visits to their house.

During the weekends I visited my relatives in Paris and and took the opportunity visit many sites of importance like the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Arch of Triumph and Versailles Palace.

After completion of the fellowship programme I returned from Paris on 31st January 2005.

I am grateful to the Indian Orthopaedic Association for awarding me the fellowship and express my gratitude to Depuy Johnson and Johnson Company for their interest in promoting the cause of Orthopaedics.

Over all the training was very educative, informative, and useful. The fellowship visit to France was a very pleasant experience.

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