

1.

Thank you very much for laying on the BAUS residential endourology course. I had an excellent time and have spent the last few weeks trying out many of the hints and tips I picked up.

I thought the tenor of the course was very good - the faculty were all very relaxed and supportive to we candidates during what must be a stressful time for them - operating in a new hospital environment, new staff, patients they have little prior knowledge of and particularly not knowing our competence. I especially appreciated the freedom to progress at my own speed without the usual time constraints in normal NHS service environment.

The staff at Stepping Hill itself were excellent - please pass on my thanks to all the theatre staff for all their patience and putting up with such extended/late finishes!!

The evening entertainment was also very good - delightful restaurants and I enjoyed the food very much.

The accommodation was adequate - warm and comfortable and reasonably close to the unit. It would have been useful to have the joining instructions earlier, but that is a minor niggle. Overall, it was an excellent experience.

I would very much like to write and thank the consultants who specifically supervised my operating periods - would you be able to provide me with their email addresses please?

Richard Napier-Hemy
Jonathan Cartilage
Stewart Irving

Many thanks again for all your efforts in organising the course so well.

Jonathan Lewis-Russell

Delegate

2.

The BAUS section of Endourology Residential Course

19th-21st September 2012

I was fortunate enough to be selected as one of only 4 delegates for the BAUS Section of Endourology Residential Course this year. It more than lived up to my expectations. The organisation from both BAUS central office and locally at Stepping Hill was fantastic. Following a welcome meal on the Tuesday night we arrived at Stepping Hill on the Wednesday morning to be issued with our ID badges. We were taken to theatres where Mr Banji Adeyoku introduced us to the rest of the faculty and the theatre nursing staff. The format for the course was that there were 2 theatres running simultaneously for the 3 days, giving 6 half day lists. Each day, there was a PCNL, a Lap nephrectomy (or nephroureterectomy) a Lap pyeloplasty and a list of 3 ureteroscopies. Each delegate had the opportunity to perform 3 of these 4 during the course and in the sessions that we weren't operating, we could move between the 2 theatres catching the best bits. When you were operating there was one nominated faculty member to act as your mentor and scrub with you. Together, we had the opportunity to meet the patient, review the imaging and then discuss the steps of the operation before starting. The three mentors I had were fantastic and taught me a huge amount. They were very patient and gave helpful tips and guidance to allow me to complete the operation myself rather than taking over when I was failing to make progress. I imagined that operating in a theatre full of experts, and some of my peers would be terrifying but was very pleasantly surprised by how comfortable it felt. The atmosphere throughout the course was excellent; there were often 4 or 5 experts in theatre at any one time, all very happy to offer opinions, discuss points of technique and give advice. They were all so approachable and non-threatening which provided a really constructive atmosphere in which to learn. The support from the theatre staff and anaesthetists was excellent and they seemed remarkably unfazed by the invasion of endourologists. We were very well looked after with excellent hot buffet lunches served in the theatre complex, and meals out every evening. I would thoroughly recommend this course to any senior trainee interested in a career in endourology. As well as learning a huge amount it reaffirmed my belief that Endourologists are a really nice bunch. To top it all, the 4 delegates were fortunate enough to be awarded a TUF travelling scholarship to study or observe abroad in a centre of excellence so I am writing this on a flight to India where I hope to improve my Lap skills further!

Zara Gall

Delegate

3.

The residential operative course provided an excellent opportunity to operate under the supervision of expert consultant endourologists. We had a wide variety of challenging cases to test us, and all the trainees on the course undertook a variety of endourological and laparoscopic cases.

Personally I cannot overstate the benefit of hands-on operating over, for example, live surgery or video sessions, or even clinical observation, especially with a knowledgeable faculty on-hand to guide and offer tips and tricks in often difficult situations. This course also allowed us to watch our peers operating, gaining insights from them about the many ways in which the same goals can be reached. Lively debate often ensued between faculty members and trainees alike on contentious issues!

The key elements which made this course so useful were the feedback we received from our trainers about the procedures we undertook and how to progress skills and techniques further, and the chance to network with like-minded colleagues at the critical end-stages of our training careers.

Over all, the course was thoroughly enjoyable, hard work, and an extremely valuable experience which I would heartily recommend.

Jake Patterson
Delegate

4.

I had the privilege and pleasure of organising the most recent Baus section of endourology residential course in Urology at Stepping Hill Hospital Stockport which held from 19-21 September 2012.

Four senior trainees attended (one of whom was one month in post as Consultant Urological surgeon).

I had excellent support from several visiting faculty without whom such a course is impossible to run.

Over 3 intensive but enjoyable days 18 endourological procedures were performed by the four delegates (each performed two lists per day) under direct one-one support of a faculty member.

All procedures were performed without incident with the excellent support of our amazing and dedicated theatre scrub nurses at Stockport.

The course was conducted in an amiable atmosphere and I believe everyone (trainees, faculty and scrub staff) learnt a new thing or two over the course of 3 days

I would like to encourage any course organisers not to be fazed by the prospect.

'Banji Adeyoju
Course Director