

BSET Endovascular Fellowship Report

Christopher Twine 2012-2013



I was awarded a BSET fellowship in 2012 at Addenbrooke's Hospital. I applied during my 5th year of specialist training as I didn't think my training programme would give me the EVAR or peripheral angioplasty experience I wanted for CCT. I felt that I already had a good enough exposure to open surgery.

For this reason my local programme director let me take the BSET fellowship as 6 months out of programme training during my final year. The fellowship gave me a great exposure to EVAR, FEVAR/Hybrid AAA repair and lower limb angioplasty. These topped up my pre-existing numbers and experience to a level over and above that needed for CCT.

Just after finishing the fellowship I was appointed to a substantive consultant post. I have an independent lower limb angioplasty practice with a weekly angio list in radiology, and a high volume EVAR practice. I'm also the surgical lead for complex endovascular AAA repair in South East Wales. Without the BSET fellowship I would have had to go abroad to gain this experience or apply again the next year prolonging my training. I think that there is still a real need for these fellowships in the UK as some deaneries are likely to be unable to deliver the required endovascular training for vascular CCT.