

BSET Fellowship Report

Dr. Anne Burdess July 2015 - November 2015

I chose to conduct my 6month BSET Fellowship at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, under the supervision of Mr. Murray Flett, Consultant Surgeon and Dr. Raj Bhat, Consultant Interventional Radiologist.

As a General Surgical trainee with an interest in Vascular Surgery I knew I was going to have to make additional effort to obtain endovascular training and I initially applied for the BSET fellowship as an ST5 - eventually securing one a year later! In the interim I had gone out of programme to the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle to increase my exposure to endovascular intervention. Although this had been a fantastic opportunity, I realised that it was only going to be with a dedicated fellowship that I would significantly develop my technical skills.

At previous BSET meetings I had listened intently to other fellow reports and spoken at length to industry representatives about their experiences at different vascular units. I also took my time to evaluate the individual rotas being offered by the different BSET centres. My decision to choose the Ninewells unit was based on the expertise of my supervisors as trainers. I knew they were actively involved and interested in training having met them at a number of courses. In addition, by choosing a relatively smaller centre I was the only fellow and involved in the design of my rota.

Initially I had planned to concentrate on peripheral intervention rather than aortic work, and specifically wanted to be signed off as a level 4 for undertaking standard iliac, and fem-pop interventions by both a consultant surgeon and radiological supervisor. However, I was delighted with my aneurysm experience. I became competent at planning and undertaking standard EVARS and proficient in the use of percutaneous closure devices but also performed several FEVARs as part of the team. The exposure to peripheral intervention was essential for these advanced cases. My weekly rota and cases as primary operator are outlined below.

I took an active role in the MDT and my supervisors were excellent at taking the time to go over the planning of cases. This decision making process was invaluable. The BSET fellowship also asks that fellows continue to participate in open theatre sessions to prevent degradation of open surgical skills and I did this on a weekly basis. I worked widely with all of the surgical team at Ninewells and was impressed by the standard of training. All available cases were treated as training opportunities, and I performed a number of lower limb-revascularisations and open aneurysm repairs during my placement.

Finally, but most importantly, was the experience of what could be achieved as working as part of a truly cohesive team. The vascular unit and its patients at Ninewells, benefit enormously from the excellent working relationship between surgery and IR. There is an open discussion of cases; a fluid movement between theatre and the angio-suite for the conduction of lists and complex work is performed jointly. Mr. Flett and Dr Bhat proctor complex aortic work in the UK as a team. Throughout my time I worked alongside the IR trainee and found the process to be more beneficial than working in isolation. My supervisors deserve to be commended for the example they set and for their patience and selflessness in training. I hope that I can recreate this model of working in my practice as a Consultant Surgeon.

Thank you to BSET for this opportunity and to my supervisors Mr. Flett and Dr. Bhat for making my time in Ninewells a positive one.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
AM	IR suite	IR suite	Audit/EVAR planning	Theatre	Theatre	
PM	IR suite	IR suite	MDT	Theatre	IR suite	
EVAR	FEVAR	ILIAC INTERVENTION	SFA/POP INTERVENTION	CRURAL INTERVENTION	UPP/Limb INTERVENTION	Embolis
32	8	28	29	15	18	8