I chose to undertake my BSET / Cook fellowship at St George’s in Tooting. There were a number of reasons why I chose the centre. I saw my future as an aortic surgical specialist; St George’s has the largest aortic practice in the UK. I saw my future as an endovascular specialist; St George’s has an international reputation for complex endovascular practice. I also knew the team, and had established a good relationship with them. This allowed me to go to St George’s, hit the ground running, and in my 6 months perform >70 EVAR, >15 TEVAR, and >5 iliac-branch EVAR as lead surgeon. I became competent in percutaneous access, was involved in fenestrated-EVAR case planning and deployment and above all developed my endovascular decision-making skills.

I am now a consultant vascular & endovascular surgeon at University Hospitals Southampton. I am the surgical endovascular lead, and am specifically focused on developing our thoracic aortic interventions. I still maintain close contact with Professor Thompson at St George’s who continues to support me through my early consultant years.