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SRS GLOBUS MEDICAL FELLOWSHIP REPORT

DIVISION OF SPINE SURGERY

DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPAEDICS & TRAUMATOLOGY

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, HONG KONG.

(FEBRUARY 5TH-24TH 2018)

I was awarded the Globus Medical Fellowship by the Scoliosis Research Society in June, 2017. My joy knew no bounds as it was a golden opportunity to uplift my career in spine surgery beyond the level of practice in my home country, Nigeria.

Queen Mary Hospital is world famous for spine surgery especially scoliosis management and I did not think twice before choosing it for my fellowship. I arrived Hong Kong in the early hours of 5th February, 2018 after a 16 hour flight from Nigeria and checked into my hotel which was graciously paid for by SRS and after a few hours rest, I found my way to Queen Mary Hospital.

I had the privilege of meeting my host, Prof Kenneth Cheung and my training started immediately. I was lucky to observe for the first time a case of Ventral Expandable prosthetic Titanium Rib (VEPTR) for Thoracic insufficiency syndrome. During my three week stay which also involved going to Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital, I was also able to observe posterior spinal fusions for posterior junctional kyphosis of the proximal thoracic spine as well as another case of two level anterior cervical fusion and occipito-cervical fusion done in one sitting.

I was able to see pedicle subtraction osteotomy done by Prof Cheung. I also tapped from the immense experience of Dr YW Wong whom I observed do some cases of scoliosis. I observed some cases of selective thoracic fusion for scoliosis using alternate level pedicle screw construct.

My stay also gave me a chance of seeing the management of an extremely rare spine infection – Q fever caused by *coxiella burnetti*.

Being a vibrant academic institution, I attended a video conference held with a hospital in Shenzhen, Mainland China which was really awesome and highly informative.

I attended the grand round rounds where I was highly impressed with the thorough discussion of all management options before decisions on types of surgeries for cases are taken.

Prof Cheung and Dr Wong also taught me in the clinic and I saw the thoroughness of their patient management. I observed first hand the use of EOS medical imaging system – a device that won the 1992 Nobel Prize, (which provides full frontal and lateral standing whole spine radiographs) with a minimal dose of radiation as well as the application fulcrum bending x-rays which guided proper decision making on fusion levels for scoliosis leading to a reduction on number of pedicle screws used as a result of minimized fusion segments.

Dr Wong also showed me how to use slow release subcutaneously implanted intra-techal baclofen for management of intractable muscle spasms. A device that was unavailable in my country. Of course I observed other commoner spine surgery procedures like anterior cervical decompression and fusion, fenestration, selective nerve root blocks under fluoroscopy for lumbar radiculopathy. Above all, I imbibed the principle that patient selection for all spine procedures must be based scientific proof that treatment must be beneficial and that treatment must never be speculative.

I must commend the high work rate of Drs Kenny, Paul and Jason and I also learnt not a little from them. The two young residents Colin and kelvin are nice helpful gentlemen and it was great working with them.

It was also great meeting other fellows from around the world and exchanging ideas with them – Dr Morgan from UK, Dr Sid from India and Dr Ai Min Wu from China.

Finally at the weekends, I had the opportunity to visit Lamma Island where I enjoyed wonderful seafood Courtesy of Dr Wong as well going to Kowloon by ferry and observing the fantastic central Hong Kong Skyline at night. I also experienced the carnival and parade of The Chinese New Year-A one in a life time experience. Hong Kong is a beautiful island.

My gratitude goes to Scoliosis Research Society for giving me a chance to better my spine surgery career and of course I cannot end without thanking April Cheung, the Spine Division Secretary whose constant correspondence and help with the Hong Kong Immigration Department made my trip here possible.

I remain indebted to Prof Kenneth Cheung, Dr Wong and the entire Spine Surgery unit for making my stay a beneficial one and I go back to Nigeria with warm memories of Hong Kong.