

## **Alan Gordon Travel Scholarship Report April 2019 : Dr Sonia Chachan**

I am a minimal access surgeon and I wanted to enhance my skills further. I wanted to attend a workshop of pelvic side wall dissection and learn tip and tricks. I came across a workshop in Pune, India. This was Radical hysterectomy hands on workshop in Galaxy Hospital in Pune run by Dr Sailesh Puntambekar.

Dr Puntambekar is a world renowned minimal access surgeon and member of many international committees.

This was a 5-day hand –on workshop. We were sent the scientific programme for 5 days. The galaxy hospital is a private teaching hospital where high class minimal access surgery is performed both in gynaecology and general surgery. Pune is 130 miles from Mumbai Airport.

We were 16 delegates (national and international) altogether and were divided into 4 groups. There were 4 operating theatres that ran from 7 am in the morning to 7 PM in the evening.

There were few lectures on pelvic anatomy, complications and how to avoid them and anaesthetic issues. The focus was on surgical training.

We then moved between these 4 theatres where we would watch live surgery and operate ourselves with one of the faculty.

We all got opportunity to dissect left and right pelvic side walls, ligate uterine artery at origin, dissect UV fold and posterior colpotomy.

A lot of emphasis was placed on pelvic anatomy.

I was most impressed with Dr Puntambekar's teaching on predictive anatomy.

He also shared videos of successful transplantation of uterus.

I noticed some differences in approach from the UK as they do not use uterine manipulator for their hysterectomies, they usually pull from above via 5mm myoma screws and change position of the screws as needed.

I saw multiple surgeries like radical hysterectomy nerve sparing and non-nerve sparing, 16-18 weeks myoma uterus for hysterectomy and myomectomy. I first hand witnessed the famous Pune Technique for radical hysterectomy (published in JMIG)

I became a part of the faculty on their social media group where they continuously share their videos for teaching and leaning.

I made contacts with other surgeons and constantly share their wisdom.

A lot of what I have learnt is reproducible and I am already incorporating in my practice and training my juniors.

I have thoroughly enjoyed this workshop and recommend to anyone interested.

English was the main language of teaching and communication.

The faculty was very kind in sharing their experience and genuinely wanted you to learn.

Thank you BSGE for facilitating this amazing opportunity for me.