

I am pleased to report that I completed a valuable six-week observership at the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, supported by the SBNS Observership Award.

During this period, I had the opportunity to observe the clinical practice in outpatient clinics. This experience provided valuable insight into patient assessment, clinical decision-making, and the structure of care delivery within the NHS system. It also allowed me to compare differences in clinical workflows, guideline-based management, and healthcare organization with those in my home institution, thereby refining my own clinical perspective.

I attended multidisciplinary team meetings and daily ward routines as an observer. Observing discussions among different specialties, including neurosurgeons, radiologists, anesthesiologists, enhanced my understanding of complex case management and highlighted the importance of teamwork in neurosurgery.

A substantial portion of my observership was spent in the operating theatre, where I was exposed to a wide spectrum of neurosurgical procedures, including trauma, complex cranial and spinal cases performed by various neurosurgeons. This provided insight into operative planning, intraoperative decision-making, and the use of advanced surgical technologies. The organization and workflow of the operating theatre differed in several respects from my home institution, offering a valuable comparative perspective that will inform my future surgical practice. The surgical teams and staff were consistently supportive and welcoming throughout my observership.

Another important aspect of this observership was the opportunity to interact with trainees, registrars and medical students. These interactions facilitated meaningful academic exchange and contributed to building an international professional network. I hope to collaborate and meet at future conferences and educational events.

Beyond the clinical environment, being in Edinburgh allowed me to appreciate the city's distinguished history. The city's longstanding contributions to medicine and surgery were particularly evident during my visit to the Surgeons' Hall Museums, reinforcing my appreciation of the historical foundations of modern surgery. Additionally, I had the opportunity to explore some parts of UK during my free time, which added a meaningful cultural dimension to this experience and made the observership even more memorable.

Overall, this observership made a significant contribution to my professional development. It broadened my clinical perspective, enhanced my understanding of a different healthcare system, and enabled me to establish valuable professional connections. The insights gained during this period will directly inform my future clinical and academic interests.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the SBNS for supporting this opportunity, and to Dr. Andreas Demetriades for his guidance and mentorship throughout my observership.

Kind regards,

Mehmet Ali Tepebaşı