

I am very grateful for the opportunity to complete my six-week neurosurgery observership at the Department of Clinical Neurosciences (DCN) in Edinburgh through the SBNS award scheme. This experience was truly unforgettable and one of the most enriching periods of my medical career.

During my time at DCN, I gained hands-on exposure to ward rounds, clinics, theatres, on-calls, and multidisciplinary team meetings. I was able to observe and participate in patient management, surgical procedures, and decision-making, which significantly broadened my understanding of neurosurgical practice and the NHS system. The experience allowed me to see neurosurgery from a different perspective, learn new approaches to patient care, and appreciate the importance of structured teamwork, communication, and clinical planning.

I actively engaged with consultants and registrars at every opportunity, which helped me grow more confident in my specialty. Upon returning to my home department, I shared my observations and insights with colleagues, helping to disseminate knowledge and inspire discussions on best practices.

Beyond the professional growth, I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Edinburgh. The city, the people, and the welcoming environment made the six weeks a truly memorable experience, both personally and professionally.

Overall, the observership has been invaluable for my development as a neurosurgeon, strengthening my skills, broadening my perspective, and reaffirming my commitment to a career in neurosurgery. I am deeply thankful to the SBNS and the team at DCN for making this experience possible.

I would also like to kindly enquire whether I might be eligible for any other SBNS opportunities in the future, such as conference bursaries or schemes for trainees and early career consultants from low- and middle-income countries. I would be very grateful for any guidance on this.

Kind regards,
Mohammad Suliman