

## Educational Travel Grant Fellowship Report

Centre Visited: German Aortic Centre, University Medical Centre Hamburg-Eppendorf- Hamburg

Surgeon visited: Professor Tilo Kölbel

Purpose: Gain experience in advanced endovascular aortic interventions.

I trained in Cardiac surgery in the UK and developed an interest in aortic surgery early in my training. It was clear to me that aortic surgery is changing in the face of disruptive technology and change in the demographics of the patients we treat. The developments in endovascular surgery have been gaining pace and offering minimally invasive treatment for an increasing number of patients for a wider range of pathologies.

My interest in endovascular surgery, lead me to join the vascular surgery team at Southmead Hospital in Bristol, which is a tertiary vascular centre in Southwest of England. I had to opportunity to acquire endovascular skills, gain exposure to thoracic and abdominal endovascular aneurysm repair.

I joined Professor Kölbel's team at the German Aortic Centre at the University Medical Centre Hamburg-Eppendorf, in a five months fellowship. Professor Kölbel is world-renowned authority in endovascular aortic aneurysm repair with an impressive innovation and academic tract records. I had the opportunity to have exposure at the forefront of endovascular aortic aneurysm repair including aortic arch repair, false lumen management techniques and complex aortic conditions. The team has four operating lists a week and there was an opportunity to absorb some of the techniques used at the centre.

There is a weekly research meeting, and I had the opportunity to participate in the on-going research projects, help with manuscripts, and write some of my own.

The weekly multi-disciplinary meeting is of a very high educational value, as the complexity is fascinating. I got the opportunity to develop my ability to think and break down complex problems into workable patterns. A cardiac surgery, a cardiologist with interest in genetic aortic syndrome, and the vascular team attend the meeting; the whole team has great experience in complex aortic conditions.

The administrative staff and the staff in the hybrid OR are friendly, helpful and supportive. In addition Hamburg is a great city to visit with beautiful scenery and many activities available to enjoy.

My travel fellowship to the German Aortic Centre has been educational, enjoyable and definitely worthwhile.

I would like to thank the ESVS and Prof Kölbel team for their support and help during my stay in Hamburg.

My e-mail address is: [eltayeb.kamal@gmail.com](mailto:eltayeb.kamal@gmail.com), and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information regarding fellowship at the German Aortic Centre.

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