

Congenital Hand Anomalies – FESSH Fellowship at Great Ormond Street Hospital London Dr. med. Katrin Merz



GOSH

Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) is one of the world's leading children's hospitals right in the centre of London.

Since its formation in 1852, the hospital has been dedicated to children's healthcare and to finding new and better ways to treat childhood illnesses. Most of the children are referred from other hospitals throughout the UK and overseas. There are more than 50 different clinical specialities at GOSH.

Each year, there are over 192,000 patient visits to the hospital.

Pediatric Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Special areas of expertise include:

- craniofacial surgery
- cleft lip and palate repair
- congenital hand anomalies
- ear surgery
- vascular anomalies and birthmarks
- general plastic and reconstructive surgery

Registrars come from all over the world in order to be trained at GOSH. One colleague was from Singapore, South Africa, Scotland, Australia and one was from Italy.

Congenital Hand Anomalies

I was able to work with for Ms Gill Smith, a specialist for congenital hand anomalies in children and her team for four weeks.

The daily work contains ward rounds, operating as well as outpatient clinics.

So I saw my first Huber-Transfer, as well as a pollicisation, the thumb duplication, therapy of radial club hand, operation on a cleft hand, on syndactyly, on polydactyly, on constricted ring syndrome, acrosyndactyly and much more.



Benefits

- Rare cases in the outpatient-clinics. I was confronted with syndromes like the Pfeiffer Syndrome, the Apert-Syndrome, the Proteus Syndrome, where only about 20 cases in the world are described
- Excellent training of the younger doctors
- Cooperation with different clinical specialties
- Very friendly and respectful contact between doctors and nurses
- Very well organized and structured hospital

Conclusion

I recommend to everybody who is interested in congenital hand deformities to apply for a fellowship with Ms Smith at Great Ormond Street Hospital with my highest regards. For me it has been a very successful time. I learnt a lot and not only did I find this specialisation very interesting, I could also imagine specialising in this field myself.



Katrin Merz, M.D. e-mail: katrin.merz@uk-erlangen.de

Department of Plastic and Hand surgery – University Hospital of Erlangen, Germany