



University Hospitals Birmingham
NHS Foundation Trust

FESSH Travel Award 2019

Visiting Fellowship Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Brachial Plexus and Peripheral Nerve Surgery May 13 - June 09 2019

Sponsored by the FESSH Travel Award I had the opportunity to visit the brachial plexus and peripheral nerve team at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham UK. The division is one of the biggest hand units in the UK including 14 fully trained hand surgery consultants and several hand fellows and an outstanding hand therapy team. The brachial plexus and peripheral nerve team is led by Mr. Dominic Power and Mr. Simon Tan, two highly experienced hand surgeons. My personal fellowship supervisor was Dominic Power. He is not only an outstanding hand and reconstructive surgeon but also a dedicated teacher in brachial plexus and peripheral nerve surgery. Moreover, he introduced me to the whole hand unit and also spent a lot of time with me outside daily business in the hospital. Hence, Dominic does not only give you insights into his deep knowledge of nerve surgery but is also capable of sharing a lot of cultural and historical knowledge with his visitors. I was able to scrub and assist in a broad variety of brachial plexus and peripheral nerve surgery as well as the whole spectrum of orthopedic and traumatic hand surgery. As a visiting fellow, you are allowed to join all the consultants (there are up to 4 trauma or elective lists running parallel every day) and learn from their great experience. The following are some of the procedures I was able to assist and observe during the fellowship period:

- *Triple transfer for adult upper brachial plexus injury*
- *Median nerve reconstruction at wrist and forearm with allograft*
- *Radial nerve reconstruction with sural nerve*
- *Schwannoma enucleation of median, ulnar and radial nerve*
- *SPIN transfer for lower brachial plexus injury*
- *Peroneal nerve decompression*
- *Tarsal tunnel release*
- *Thoracic outlet decompression (supraclavicular approach)*
- *Carpal and cubital tunnel release (open technique)*
- *Microvascular 2nd toe-to-hand transfer after traumatic thumb loss*
- *ALT flap for forearm reconstruction*
- *Multidigital saw injury with flexor tendon, digital nerve and vessel repair*
- *Thumb replantation*
- *Digital revascularisation after subtotal amputation*
- *Wrist fractures (volar, dorsal or combined approaches)*
- *Metacarpal and finger fractures (ORIF, CRIF)*
- *ORIF of transscaphoid perilunate fracture dislocation*

In particular, I would like to thank Mr Dominic Power, Mr Samuel George, Mr Simon Tan, Mr Tahseen Chaudry and Mr Thomas Madura for their outstanding hospitality during my fellowship. The conceptual discussions about peripheral nerve surgery have been inspiring in many ways and clearly enhanced my understanding and treatment of nerve conditions. The nerve fellowship at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham is a highly recommendable experience.

Furthermore, I would like to thank FESSH for giving me the opportunity to expand my knowledge on brachial plexus and peripheral nerve surgery.

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Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham UK



Discussing nerve surgery with Dominic Power



Library of Birmingham

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30 December 2019

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Re: Florian Frueh Visiting Fellowship in peripheral Nerve Surgery at UHB

Florian Frueh was a visiting fellow in Peripheral Nerve Surgery at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust for a period of four weeks from 13 May 2019 to 09 June 2019.

During this time he attended all department activities including theatre sessions, clinics, MDT, department teaching, audit and M&M meetings. He has a great knowledge of nerve surgery, reconstructive challenges and the modern approach to management including peripheral nerve transfers. He was able to spend the fellowship discussing the technical aspects of repair in complex cases and to help refine algorithms for exploration and reconstruction. During his time here he presented his own experiences and research from Switzerland which was well-received by the whole UHB team. He undertook some research writing which has succeeded in a recent publication. He contributed to fellow teaching and journal clubs.

Florian is an experienced hand, micro and peripheral nerve surgeon and I look forward to continuing to maintain a friendship with someone who is clearly an expert and future leader of this field.

Yours faithfully

Dominic Power
Consultant Hand and Peripheral Nerve Surgeon