I was fortunate to be selected by BCIS to attend the annual interventional cardiology fellows course held at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Las Vegas that was held over three and a half days in December 2016.

The course was extremely well organised with parallel adult interventional and congenital/structural tracks running simultaneously delivered by a superb faculty. The programme itself was didactic but with plenty of time allocated to discussion and the opportunity to ask questions both during the sessions or informally during breaks over coffee. Sessions were divided between specific topics (e.g. vascular access) and updates of clinical trials / current data that current practice is based upon. The first day was allocated to more basic aspects of interventional cardiology and as the course progressed more complex techniques were introduced (e.g. CTO, the use of haemodynamic support) in addition to specific sessions covering structural interventions (e.g. TAVI, ASD, PFO and mitral). There were further sponsored satellite symposia that focussed upon specific technologies (e.g. OCT) and also simulators that were also both informative and enjoyable.

Whilst there was a clear North American bias however delegates from all over the world (>60 countries) ensured that discussion was varied and it was particularly interesting to hear how practice differs in different institutions and healthcare systems. Particular highlights were the small group sessions with case presentations and a two-hour live heart dissection where each of us were provided with a procine heart that we dissected under instruction – my first dissection class since medical school!!

Finally, I would once again like to thank BCIS for providing me with this wonderful opportunity and I am sure that the knowledge that I have gained will benefit my future career. I would strongly recommend this course to future interventional trainees.

Neil Ruparelia