SCAI Fall Fellows Course 2016

I was lucky enough to be selected by BCIS to attend the SCAI fellows course held in Las Vegas in December 2016. The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions runs the annual meeting primarily for North American fellows towards the end of their PCI training. Overseas trainees were also well represented with participants from over fifty countries.

The course is delivered over three and a half intense days and across two separate tracks covering “Adult Interventional Cardiology” and “Congenital/Structural Heart Disease” with fellows choosing a track according to their subspecialty. I attended primarily the “Adult Interventional Cardiology” sessions and found them to be excellent throughout. Pretty much the whole PCI curriculum is covered, ranging from the basics of guide catheter selection to complex and high risk coronary intervention. The sessions were largely didactic and lecture based but also included breakout sessions in small groups to discuss interesting cases. The world-renowned speakers illustrated core topics with a review of the evidence followed by appropriate clinical cases. Refreshingly, even the most eminent and engaging speakers were not allowed over fifteen minutes to make their point. The meeting had a very collegiate and friendly atmosphere with plenty of time to share the highlights (and lowlights) of training with fellows from around the world. The faculty mingled freely in the breaks between sessions, allowing greater opportunities to explore challenging topics in more detail.

Las Vegas itself is unique with the hotels, casinos, shows, bars and nightclubs all being larger than life. We were lucky enough to stay in the Cosmopolitan Hotel which is located on the strip and has a great view of the Bellagio water fountains. The glitz and glamour may not be to everyone’s taste, but the surrounding desert landscape and Grand Canyon in particular are spectacular and well worth a visit. I thoroughly enjoyed both the course and the location and would recommend it highly to any trainee who has chosen a career in interventional cardiology. I would again like to thank BCIS for continuing to support UK trainees in attending this excellent course.

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