

REPORT ON

**HANDS-ON MICROSURGERY COURSE AND OBSERVERSHIP TRAINING
PROGRAMME**

AT GANGA HOSPITAL-DEPARTMENT OF PLASTIC, HAND AND MICROSURGERY

313 METTUPALAYAM ROAD,

COIMBATORE, INDIA

DATE ATTENDED:

23RD APRIL 2016 TO 22ND MAY 2016

REPORT BY:

DR KATUSABE JOSEPHINE LINDA

MMED PLASTIC SURGERY RESIDENT YEAR III

MBARARA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY

(CORSU HOSPITAL CAMPUS)

Introduction

Ganga hospital is one of the largest orthopedic and plastic surgery specialty hospital in India with 450 beds. It was started by a married couple in 1978 as a 17 bed nursing home that was later converted into a specialty centre in 1990 by their two sons, Dr S Raja Sabapathy and Dr S Rajasekaran as a tribute to their parents. Dr S Raja Sabapathy is a plastic, hand and microsurgeon while Dr S Rajasekaran is an orthopedic surgeon.

Since inception, the institution has grown to become a prominent trauma management centre and a premier tertiary referral centre for the people of India as well as other countries. The hospital is also an academic centre offering opportunities for specialty training and fellowships to medical doctors wishing to learn and gain more skills. The hospital is home to the Ganga microsurgery institute that offers a hands-on microsurgery course modelled on the Louisville course in a well set up laboratory. The department of plastic surgery, hand and reconstructive microsurgery, maxillofacial surgery and burns has hosted over 1000 surgeons and trainees from 55 different countries.

My 4 weeks experience at Ganga hospital

I arrived in Coimbatore on the hot summer afternoon of 23rd April 2016. The hospital had arranged for a car that picked me from the airport and dropped to the house flat where I was to stay for the 4 weeks. A nice fully furnished apartment, with air condition and located reasonably near the hospital. In hospital itself, staff was very friendly and welcoming.



During my stay, I attended a week long microsurgery hands on course at the Ganga microsurgery Institute during which 5 days I was shown and also performed basic microsurgical procedures mainly rat vessel anastomosis. This was one of the most challenging exercise I have done during my training but the teacher were very patient and understanding. I was the first trainee from Uganda to attend this course. This special skill

I have obtained will be of great use in my future practice.

The rest of the 3 weeks were spent working in the ward, operating theatre and outpatients wing of the department of plastic surgery. During this time, I had the opportunity to observe, assist and participate in the management of major limb injuries, microsurgical salvage of mutilated hands and limbs and gained an insight into the philosophy of this department in taking care of trauma patients.

I learned more than I ever imagined I could in just 4 weeks. I got to see many surgeries that I had never seen before, in literally every field of plastic surgery. The transforming results of brachial plexus surgeries in individuals that previously had flail hands with no hope of return of function were amazing. I am certainly inspired and very motivated to offer surgeries to patients that need it back home when I finish my training. The consultants at Ganga hospital are highly skilled, well read, always willing to teach, very patient and welcoming. It is such an honor to have worked with them.

Positives

An amazing, relevant and much needed training opportunity for any plastic surgeon or trainee and I am grateful that I got this chance.

The hands-on microsurgery course is a good foundation for one like me starting out with microsurgery.

Working closely with re known and experienced plastic surgeons allowed me to interact and create networks that could be very useful in future.

From Dr. S Raja sabapathy's words of wisdom, I learnt that with hard work and dedication, one can do ordinary things extraordinarily and make a big difference.

Appreciation

Thank you interface Uganda for the facilitation that made it possible for me to attend the microsurgery course as well as the observership training programme at Ganga hospital.