

19/08/2020

To whom it may concern

Perth Sports Surgery Fellowship Testimonial

I had the pleasure to complete the Perth Sport Surgery Fellowship between July 2019 and January 2020 under supervision of the fellowship trained sports surgeons Peter D'Alessandro, Brendan Ricciardo, Li-On Lam, Satyen Gohil and Andy Mattin. Overall, the fellowship was extraordinary in terms of case load, learning experience, guidance to independent operating and lifestyle.

My interests were soft tissue knee as well as joint preserving hip surgery. Peter, the principal supervisor, tailored the fellowship timetable to maximise exposure to these cases. Supervision was planned to gradually decrease in order to encourage independent operating. With this approach, I was able to progress through increasingly difficult procedures with the comfort of having my supervisors available anytime should I need advice. Furthermore, with the combined private/public exposure, I got to assist in complex cases from day 1 and experience sports surgery in shoulder/elbow/hip/knee and ankle as well as shoulder/hip/knee arthroplasty work and trauma surgery.

A recently introduced pathway for soft tissue injuries in the shoulder and knee includes the sports fellow as a gatekeeper and due to this, I got to see and manage plenty of fresh injuries through my clinic and Fellow's theatre list.

Furthermore I got the opportunity to accompany my supervisors to clinic/theatre in Esperance and Northam, with a planned trip to Geraldton. Those regional ventures add great value and allow you to discover some parts of beautiful Western Australia.

During my six months, which included a Christmas holiday break, I ended up performing around 300 cases. I was the primary surgeon or supervising/teaching registrars in 55% of those procedures. Exposure included ACL surgery, multiligament knee injuries, meniscal/root repairs, knee cartilage procedures and osteotomies, patella stabilisations, hip arthroscopies as well as hamstring, gluteal and pectoralis tendon repairs, total knee, hip and shoulder arthroplasties and shoulder reconstructive surgery.

Thanks to the effort of my competent and passionate fellowship supervisors I feel comfortable performing most soft tissue procedures around the knee independently and gained good insight and experience to hip arthroscopies.

I can wholeheartedly recommend this fellowship to anyone interested in Sports Surgery and only wish it lasted longer.

Best regards,

Michael Finsterwald
Sports Fellow 29/7/19 – 26/01/20