

TraineeMatters

The current limited availability of temporal bones in the UK means that in order to obtain essential experience of temporal bone dissection, trainees have to look further afield for suitable courses. While the opportunity to travel overseas for such courses is attractive, they are often expensive and combined with travelling expenses, can quickly exhaust study leave budgets. Below we present four overseas courses that represent excellent value for money, and should leave some cash for the Association of Otolaryngologists in Training (AOT) meeting at the end of the year.

Raj Patel, Editor, Trainee Matters

'Budget' Options for Temporal Bone Dissection

i. Temporal Bone Course

Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, March 2004. Organised by: Professor James Looek, Department of Otolaryngology, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Stellenbosch. International tutor: Professor George Browning. Cost: £250.

Venue and dates: The course is held annually in March at Stellenbosch University department of Anatomy, which is a 20 minute car drive outside Cape Town city centre. Most of the international delegates stayed in the city and travelled to the venue with local delegates or in hire cars. Cape Town is a wonderful city with numerous beautiful sandy beaches and bays on its south side. The competitive course fee means delegates can extend their stay and experience many of the sites in and around the city. The cost of living for the UK traveller is relatively inexpensive and March is a good time of the year to travel to Cape Town as it is at the tail end of their summer (and high season).

Delegates: 20 African and European delegates from junior trainees to senior consultants, split into 'junior' and 'senior' groups.

Timetable: Three day course – three half-days of supervised bone drilling, remaining time devoted to live demonstration of temporal bone/mastoid drilling, meatoplasty, tympanoplasty techniques etc. and tutorials.

Bones: Good quality fresh cadaveric bones. Maximum of two bones per delegate.

Equipment: The drills and surgical instruments supplied are of a higher quality than many of us had used on other courses and are comparable to the quality of those used in clinical practice.

Social events: Professor Looek generously hosted a reception party for the faculty and delegates at his hillside retreat overlooking Cape Town and the Atlantic Ocean! If this wasn't enough, we also enjoyed a sponsored meal and live Jazz in one of the Victoria and Albert Waterfront restaurants.

Contact: Professor Looek on jwl@sun.ac.za Amanda Hugo (secretary) on ah5@sun.ac.za

ii. International Practical Course in Otolology and Temporal Bone Surgery

Marburg, Germany, October 2004. Organised by: Dr Carsten Dalchow and Professor Werner, Department of Otolaryngology and Head & Neck Surgery, Philipps-University Marburg, Germany. International Tutor: Keehyun Park, Ajou University School of Medicine, Korea. Cost: €300.

Venue and Dates: The course is held every year in October in the University Hospital ENT department. Marburg is a delightful

university town an hour's train journey northwest of Frankfurt and therefore easily reached by budget airline from many UK airports. The town itself is well worth a visit in its own right, irrespective of the added enticement of temporal bones to dissect. The old part of town (Oberstadt) consists of cobbled streets and beautiful rooftops high up on a hillside; the predominantly student population ensures a lively nightlife while the burrs cool in readiness for the following day's dissection.

Delegates: The course, taught in excellent English, attracts a truly multinational group of delegates from Europe, Africa and the Far East. There were 12 in total on the 2004 course; the faculty easily outnumbered us.

Timetable: Two and a half day course consisting of predominantly temporal bone dissection with only brief interludes during the day for short lectures and highly edited videos of operations; a welcome alternative to lengthy, live operating sessions. The full remit of otological procedures is covered mostly taught in accordance with the Ugo Fisch doctrine.

Bones: Preserved temporal bones are drilled in pairs. This actually works well, provided you get on well with your dissection partner, and is a useful opportunity to pool experience of different techniques picked up during previous training as well

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All issues of interest to trainees will be covered here, and ideas or suggestions for this section are welcomed.

Please contact Raj Patel, Section Editor with contributions via email: dr_rajana_patel@hotmail.com

Deadlines:

Jan/Feb issue	–	Nov 5
Mar/Apr issue	–	Jan 5
May/June issue	–	Mar 5
Jul/Aug issue	–	May 5
Sept/Oct issue	–	July 5
Nov/Dec issue	–	Sept 5