



REPORT FROM 2017 INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

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ON THE ACEM ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING, SYDNEY

19th to 23rd NOVEMBER 2017

I was very privileged to have been awarded the ACEM international scholarship to attend the 2017 ACEM ASM in Sydney from the 19th to the 23rd of November 2017. My host for the conference was Dr Rob Mitchell who was very helpful in making sure my stay was enjoyable as well as uneventful.

The program for the EM Scholars actually started a week earlier (15th November) and which involved visits to various emergency departments and the Sydney Ambulance centre. I arrived in Sydney on the 14th and was accommodated at Kents Hotel for the first week prior to the conference proper. All the other international EM scholars were also accommodated in the same hotel. Our contact ACEM officer, Mrs Fatima Mehmedbegovic, was a wonderful host and she made sure we were all taken care of and had no problems settling down in Sydney.

Preconference Activities

1. Emergency department visits to Bowral ,Liverpool and Royal North Shore hospitals
2. Sydney Ambulance centre
3. Air rescue centre
4. Sightseeing Sydney Harbour bridge walk
5. Train ride in Sydney busy Subway

I truly enjoyed the Emergency department visits as that was my first time to visit any Emergency department in Australia. Learning about the triaging systems, Emergency department layout and design and meeting the hard working doctors and nurses was very inspiring indeed.

The Ambulance centre visit was an eye opener for me. It has to be the busiest Ambulance centre in the world and also very sophisticated as well the way it operated.

Conference week

For the conference week we had to move to the Luxurious Hyatt Hotel which was just a few blocks from the Kent. We all walked there and got our rooms with no problems.

I was also so fortunate to enrol in a preconference workshop on Emergency Medicine Radiology. I learnt a lot from the session. It was worth it.

1. Award Ceremony

The award ceremony was probably the highlight for us the EM international scholars as we were called individually to go on stage to receive our awards and the chance to take a picture with the President of ACEM.

2. Ferry Trip to Sydney Harbour Bridge

Another highlight for me was the post ceremony party on the ferry as we cruised the Sydney harbour. What a spectacular scenery. Also the chance to meet and chat with other EM doctors was enjoyable indeed.

3. EM international Dinner

Great food and company. What can I say? We were the highlight for the dinner which made us feel special and welcoming indeed. I got to meet many colleagues who had special interest in international EM especially in developing countries.

4. Conference Presentations

The many presentations occurred simultaneously so I had to decide which ones were relevant for me. I attended sessions in paediatrics, sepsis, Public health and Global Disaster response. All speakers were outstanding and it was all worth it. I learnt some new stuff and will try and apply it to my local setting.

5. Gala Night Party

Another highlight for us. This party happened at the hotel we were staying so it was convenient for us. Everyone partied till late but I had to leave early as our presentation was at 900 am the next day. A bit of a spoiler for me though. Wish I could stay and party till late.

6. EM International Scholars Presentations

This was my moment. I presented for 10 minutes and it was well received. All the nervousness evaporated once I got started. My confidence in public speaking was given a boost that day.

CHALLENGES

1. I had a problem with my VISA card so could not withdraw money (per diem) which was paid into my account a week prior to departure to Sydney. I got it all sorted out and was able to use it again a few days later.