

## **REPORT FOR THE SSAT 2005 AUTOSUTURE TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP FOR PRIVATE OR HOSPITAL BASED COMMUNITY PRACTICE**

Venue: Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Baltimore, MD

Dates: Sept 12-23, 2005.

Preceptor: Charles Yeo, MD, FACS. Professor of Surgery.

Thank you for the opportunity to further my experience with Hepato-Biliary and Pancreatic surgery. I selected the venue of Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, MD. I consider it one of the premier medical institutions in the world. The surgeons there have done some pioneering research and clinical work in this field of abdominal surgery. My preceptor was Dr. Charles Yeo, who is Professor of Surgery, and Chief of the Division of Gastro-Intestinal Surgery. There is a very busy and active hepato-biliary and pancreatic service under his supervision. Dr. Yeo was extremely helpful and encouraged me to spend time with all the surgeons at staff, to ensure that I was exposed to a wide variety of hepato-bilo-pancreatic cases. I was surprised by the volume of pancreatic cases that are performed here, with referrals not only from all across the United States, but also from all over the world.

My day would start with rounds with the HPB service, with the chief resident, surgical residents and medical students. This is followed by a daily 7 am clinical conference. The GI conference was particularly informative and well attended. This is mainly a resident-presented cases of interesting GI pathology, complete with photographs, work-up, intra-operative findings and pathology slides. This is followed by a short didactic session, which generates a lively discussion, and active participation from a number of the surgical staff, elaborating from their personal experience. The attending staff expects a lot from the resident housestaff, and I noted that the residents were all well read, and up to date with the current surgical literature. There are also regular Surgical Morbidity and Mortality, Pathology and Oncology conferences as well.

I particularly enjoyed the Surgical Oncology rounds, which were presented in a pro- and con debate fashion on "Is neoadjuvant chemotherapy better than postoperative adjuvant therapy for resectable pancreatic adenocarcinoma". Both presenters gave an erudite view of the data from their standpoint, and let the audience decide for themselves. Another highlight of my visit to Johns Hopkins was surgical grand rounds by a visiting professor, Dr. Michael Sarr of The Mayo Clinic. He explicated on the "Current Management of Acute and Chronic Pancreatitis", as well as recent advancements and areas of future research.

I also observed a number of surgeries in the operating room with Drs. Yeo, Cameron, Eckhauser and Campbell. It was an honor to meet Dr. John Cameron, Professor of Surgery. He has perhaps more experience with performing pancreatoduodenectomies than any other surgeon of our era. We had a discussion about the use of somatostatin to prevent leakage from the pancreatoduodenostomy; as well as the value of placing a stent across this anastomosis. I also managed to observe a number of surgeries by Dr. Choti, who is very facile in the art of major hepatic resection, and effortlessly does difficult anatomic resections of the liver.

Overall, my experience at Johns Hopkins was an excellent albeit a short one. I am grateful for the SSAT for this opportunity to interact with, and learn from other surgeons in a highly academic environment, and to glean from their experience. I was able to see interesting surgical cases as well as being exposed to different ideas in education and research. This will enable me to provide better care for my own patients.

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