

Feedback – Foot and Ankle Senior Clinical Fellowship
Golden Jubilee University National Hospital, Clydebank, UK
Period of Training: 07/02/2024 – 06/08/2025 (six months)

I am a consultant orthopaedic surgeon from Malaysia with a special interest in foot and ankle surgery. Seeking to further enhance my clinical expertise, I pursued a six-month fellowship under Mr. Kalpesh Shah and Mr. Manal Siddiqui at the Golden Jubilee University National Hospital. This experience far exceeded my expectations and was exceptional in every aspect.

The fellowship was highly beneficial to me, as the hospital operates as an ‘overflow’ centre, receiving elective referrals from across Scotland, including the Shetland Islands, as part of a government initiative to reduce waiting times. This structure provided an optimal training environment, as it closely mirrored my clinical practice back home. I encountered a diverse case mix, including forefoot deformities, hindfoot arthritis, planovalgus and cavovarus deformities, midfoot arthritis, and lateral ligament instability. The surgical exposure was extensive, with a particular emphasis on total ankle replacements, minimally invasive hallux valgus surgery, and arthroscopic ankle procedures.

I was primarily attached to Mr. Kalpesh Shah, who maintained a structured weekly schedule with two theatre sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays and clinics on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Additionally, I had the opportunity to join Mr. Manal Siddiqui in the operating theatre on Fridays. Mr. Shah was an outstanding mentor, dedicated to refining my surgical skills and overall efficiency in the operating room. He emphasized the importance of meticulous preparation, from theatre briefings and patient positioning to surgical execution, significantly enhancing my ability to optimize theatre efficiency.

In clinics, Mr. Shah placed great importance on fundamental skills such as history-taking and clinical examination. His attention to detail helped me refine my diagnostic acumen, improving my ability to recognize patterns in foot and ankle pathology while developing a keen eye for subtle, unexpected findings.

The fellowship also included regular radiology meetings, where we engaged in in-depth discussions on pre- and post-operative imaging alongside an integrated support team. Monthly CME days provided an excellent platform for exploring current literature, allowing fellows to present on topics of interest.

Research was another key component of my fellowship. Under Mr. Shah’s guidance, I initiated and conducted a prospective audit, which I later presented at the Foot and Ankle

Scotland meeting. Additionally, I successfully completed a clinical research application through IRAS, further enriching my academic and research experience.

Beyond the clinical and academic aspects, Glasgow proved to be an excellent base for exploring Scotland. With its proximity to Edinburgh and easy access to the renowned Scottish Highlands, it offered a wonderful experience for my family and me. We particularly enjoyed visiting the Isle of Skye and other scenic destinations.

Overall, this fellowship was an invaluable experience that significantly enhanced my clinical and surgical expertise while also contributing to my personal and professional growth. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity and highly recommend this program to future fellows seeking comprehensive training in foot and ankle surgery.

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