

HKOA Spine Chapter Travelling Scholarship report

European Spine Course Diploma Education Week

Strasbourg, France

October 2014

The European Spine Society organized a comprehensive European Spine Course Diploma as a way to set the European Education Standards for Spine Specialists. I attended the 3rd education week held in Strasbourg, France with the support of the HKOA spine chapter scholarship 2014.

The European Spine Course Diploma (ESCD) is made up of 5 Modules. 1. Basic Comprehensive, 2. Degenerative Challenges, 3. Trauma, 4. Spinal Deformities, 5. Tumours, Infections and Systemic disease. All 5 Modules must be completed in order to obtain the European Spine Course Diploma, which is now respected on a European level by many spinal societies and federations whom remain involved and informed on the project development. Each module consisted of 2 days lectures, seminars, Cadaveric workshops, pre-course quiz and post-course quiz. There are also pre-course education reading materials. Evidence-based and comprehensive, which attracts many experienced spine surgeons all around Europe to attend.

I took the 1. Basic, 2. Degenerative and 3. Trauma modules for this Education week. I particularly enjoyed learning the techniques on post-traumatic kyphosis deformity surgery, MIS-TLIF, iliac screws placement. The quality of the faculty and the content of the programme are of high standards.

I would highly recommend other young spine fellows to attend this Diploma course. Space is limited to 28 participants for each module, and the waiting list is long.

I would definitely finish the other remaining modules in the near future. Hopefully similar course would be organized in Asia-Pacific / Hong Kong to nourish this part of the world.



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November 2014