SCAI FALLS FELLOW COURSE, DEC 2014, LAS VEGAS, NV, USA

Every year selected UK trainees in interventional cardiology are awarded a place in this prestigious Society of Cardiovascular Angiography and Intervention (SCAI) course. The registration fees and the hotel charges for the course are waived to attend the course. However, you will need to fund your own travel.

The course is attended by the North American fellows including those from Canada. I also met some fellows from far flung places like Indonesia and Egypt. The course itself is comprehensive and covers all major topics in coronary as well as non-coronary interventions. There is a parallel programme in congenital heart disease interventions which the trainees are free to attend if they wished.

There are plenty of opportunities for simulation sessions mentored by the experts in the field and to get hands on experience with techniques like rotational atherectomy or trouble shooting of the Impella device. The meeting is lecture based but interaction is actively encouraged. The atmosphere is fairly informal and there are plenty of opportunities to network with some of the big names in the interventional cardiology as well as to find out about the training experiences of the fellows from other parts of the world. If you were to plan a fellowship in North America, this is the best opportunity to meet the catheter lab directors of the major centres in North America.

Finally, who has not heard of Las Vegas? The hotel is on the strip and has excellent amenities. You are never far from the world famous casinos and theatres. If you wanted to visit the grand canyons there are plenty of tour operators offering coach trip or helicopter ride.

In summary, this is a comprehensive course covering all topics in interventional cardiology relevant to the fellows in training. It is attended by almost all the USA interventional cardiology fellows and has excellent faculty. I am very grateful to the education committee for the opportunity to attend SCAI 2014 Falls Fellow Course held in Las Vegas.

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