I was one of the five British cardiology SpRs, selected by the British Cardiovascular Intervention Society (BCIS) to attend the fellow’s course organised by the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) in Las Vegas from 5th to 8th December 2012.

The placement offer included the course and 3 nights of stay in the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, which is one of the many excellent hotels located on Las Vegas strip.

This course was one of the best courses I have ever attended, covering most of the topics related to coronary (as well as peripheral) intervention. They have got adult coronary intervention and congenital / structural heart disease courses running in 2 adjacent rooms and as a fellow you can attend any of the lectures in both the rooms.

The course runs through 7am to 5:30pm. Most of the days there were morning breakfast meetings and evening talks with dinner.

The topics covered in this meeting, included as below with 4-5 talks covering same subject.

- Fundamentals of interventional equipment selection
- PCI – left main and multi-vessel
- Valve and structural therapy: Aortic
- Flaunting the guideline and appropriateness criteria (mainly related to ACC / AHA guidelines)
- Radial access
- Support technologies and high risk intervention
- Valve and structural therapy: Trans-septal and mitral
- STEMI – ACS: Shock
- Anti-platelet and anti-thrombotic therapies
- Valve and structural therapies: ASD and PFO
- Getting out of trouble: Pericardiocentesis, snares, broken wires and embolised devices

The meeting also included peripheral intervention under heading of:

- Endovascular: Carotid and renals
- Endovascular: Lower extremities

In summary this meeting takes you through nearly the whole of the syllabus of the coronary interventions, as well as peripheral intervention.

Additionally, you have plenty of opportunity to speak to various prominent speakers from the USA as well as meet up with fellows from throughout the USA and various other countries, who also attend the meeting.

At the end of the course, we were offered free SCAI website access (plenty of material for e-learning) as well as access to Catheterization and Cardiovascular Intervention (CCI) journal for 12 months.
Last but not the least; Las Vegas is one of the vibrant cities one has to visit at least once in their life time. As I was flying so far, I went there with the family 4 days before the beginning of the course and had a great time before spending 3 days attending the course.

For those, who do not get a placement on the course through BCIS, you can still contact SCAI directly and sometimes, if they have an opportunity, they do offer placements on the course. You can find more information about the course from http://www.scai.org

I would like to thank BCIS for offering me the placement on this course.

Dr Ashish Shah
March 2012