SCAI with its affiliation to BCIS allows the opportunity for 5 UK senior interventional trainees to travel to Las Vegas, USA to attend a comprehensive 4-day course on Adult Interventional Cardiology. The course is attended by over 350 mainly USA and Canadian PCI trainees and is in fact the biggest gathering of budding future interventionalists in North America. Registration and hotel accommodation are provided by SCAI however travel costs to Las Vegas remains the responsibility of the individual.

The programme consists of both didactic based lectures and hands on simulation workshops split over the 4-days. The lectures are very comprehensive and cover the very basics of coronary intervention (heparin dosing, choice of guide catheters, wires ect.) to the more advanced (Left main PCI, bifurcations, CTO). There are sessions on peripheral, acute stroke and renal interventions which seem to be performed more readily by North American interventionalists than their UK counterparts. I particularly enjoyed the sessions on TAVI and percutaneous mitral valve repair which were given by Ted Feldman (principal investigator of EVEREST II) and his thoughts on how this arena is going to expand in the coming years. The workshops include simulators and practical stations on IVUS/FFR, use of distal protection devices and rotablation, there is ample opportunity for hands on as workshops are conducted in smaller groups. As always case presentations by faculty members were very enjoyable.

Overall I found it a valuable learning experience with not only opportunities to meet with North American Fellows but to witness the glitz and glamour that Las Vegas has to offer.

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