

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND/SUDANESE SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND
WRIST TRAUMA COURSE - THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2017
KHARTOUM REPORT



Fig 1. Street scene in Khartoum

This course was delivered at the request of the newly formed Sudanese Society for Surgery of the Hand, building on a Hand and Wrist Trauma Symposium supported by BSSH in December 2015. Since that time the Sudanese Society for Surgery of the Hand has been formed and requested a more specific focus on the management of wrist trauma aimed at Senior Plastic and Orthopaedic Trainees and Consultants. The BSSH Faculty consisted of Steve Hodgson, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Bolton, Matt Nixon, Consultant Upper Limb and Children's Surgeon, Chester/Manchester and Stephen Lipscombe, Consultant Hand and Wrist Surgeon, St Helens. The conference venue was the Rotana Hotel which was hosting the annual Sudanese Orthopaedic Association Meeting over the subsequent three days.



Fig 2. The BSSH faculty meeting the delegates

Building on feedback from 2015, the course consisted of a mixture of set piece lectures with plenty of time for discussion groups to reinforce learning (see appendix 1). Attendance had been advertised by the Sudanese Society for Surgery of the Hand and attracted 36 delegates. In contrast to two years ago it was good to see many of the senior Plastic and Orthopaedic Trainees describing themselves as having a hand/upper limb interest. The conference venue was excellent and would certainly be suitable for future meetings. Feedback was very positive with scoring for the separate topics out of 5 as follows:-

- Distal radius 4.5

- Scaphoid 4.8
- Carpal dissociation 4.3
- Children's fractures 4.1
- Salvage 4.2
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(suggesting that there is an appetite to learn about the more common conditions)

The discussion groups were well received with there being a request for operative videos and possibly demonstration surgery on cadavers. The most popular topic for a future Symposium was from an orthopaedic perspective, elbow conditions, including trauma and arthroscopy and from a Plastic Surgical perspective, a flap course.



Fig 3. The Sudanese were very hospitable

During the visit we were privileged to meet the six Council members of the Sudanese Society for Surgery of the Hand and hear the progress that has been made in developing hand and wrist surgery in Sudan. This remains a country with very general Plastic and Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgeon's with a large appetite for learning to move hand surgery forward as an interface speciality. BSSH has a real role to play supporting the Sudanese Society for Surgery of the Hand and are already beginning to plan the next BSSH supported educational visit in December 2018. This is likely to be at the same venue with there being a real opportunity for the Trauma & Orthopaedic Faculty to contribute to the Sudanese Orthopaedic Association Annual Conference.



Fig 4 . BSSH faculty meeting with SdSSH Council members