

Addis Ababa Ethiopia
27 – 29 March 2019

Neil Cahoon, Rupert Eckersley, Henk Giele and David Bodansky

Following an initial 2017 visit to Addis Ababa, a jointly sponsored BSSH and BFIRST cadaveric hand trauma course was run in March 2019. The course was facilitated by the Department of Plastic Surgery at ALERT Hospital and attended by almost 60 orthopaedic and plastic surgical residents over 3 days.

The course was coordinated by Neil Cahoon, plastic & hand surgeon from Edinburgh. He was joined by Rupert Eckersley (orthopaedic hand surgeon), Henk Giele (plastic hand surgeon) and David Bodansky (BSSH trainee). The course layout involved short didactic lectures on trauma hand topics followed by a discussion of clinical cases and clinical examination of live patients with traumatic hand and upper limb injury.

The cadaveric component of the course took place on the 3rd and final day of the course at Aabet Hospital. Residents had demonstrations of upper limb approaches, common soft tissue flap reconstruction options and nerve/tendon harvesting techniques.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the plastic surgical staff at ALERT hospital, especially Dr Abraham Neguisse for arranging the venue, catering and finding trauma patients for the group discussions. Rupert, Henk, David and I really enjoyed the experience of teaching some really enthusiastic and knowledgeable residents and are grateful for the warm hospitality shown by our Ethiopian surgical colleagues.

We have discussed future plans to run another cadaveric hand course concentrating on more elective topics in 2020/2021.

Neil Cahoon

