



## **British Cardiac Society / American College of Cardiology Multi-modality Imaging Preceptorship 2011 Report**

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In 2011, I was awarded an imaging preceptorship by the British Cardiac Society and the California Chapter of the American College of Cardiology. This proved to be a fantastic opportunity, which significantly furthered my education and has led to an exciting research collaboration between the imaging group at the University of Edinburgh and Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre in Los Angeles.

The first part of the preceptorship was spent learning cardiovascular CT with Dr Ronald Karlsberg. It was based around the CT Masters Series Course, which is a well established and highly rated course attended by imaging cardiologists from around the world. Each of us were provided with personal workstations and access to hundreds of pre-selected cases covering an extensive range of pathology. The quality of the teaching faculty was excellent with personal lectures from world-renowned experts in Cardiovascular CT including Dr Karlsberg himself, Dr Matthew Budoff, Dr Louise Thomson and Dr John Friedman. Each has a wealth of reporting experience and crucially each a slightly different approach to scan interpretation. The structure of the course allowed the tutors to go over cases with us on individual basis and it included a steady stream of live cases, permitting us to observe scan acquisition and real-time clinical interpretation. Teaching often continued in to the evening and if you had the energy it was possible to remain on your workstation interpreting scans all night. Consequently by the end of the week, I had reported over 150 scans and completed the necessary criteria for level 3 accreditation. More importantly my knowledge levels and CT reporting skills had improved to the extent that I have felt able to join the reporting rota on my return to Edinburgh.

The second part of the preceptorship was spent with Dr Daniel Berman at the Cedars-Sinai medical centre in Los Angeles. I was not prepared for the sheer scale of this hospital coupled with the state of the art facilities which it possesses. The cardiovascular imaging department performs a wide range of modern imaging techniques on a daily basis, including cardiovascular MRI, CT coronary angiography, SPECT and vascular PET. There was ample opportunity to further my experience of each of these imaging modalities alongside the resident imaging fellows and under the supervision of the imaging consultants. Furthermore I was able to attend the daily teaching seminars and lectures within the hospital. I was impressed by the work ethic and presentation skills of my American colleagues in training and the rigour with which their knowledge is tested and advanced. Finally I was able to spend time in the Imaging Research Core Facility (IRCF), a state of the art imaging centre for both animal and human research located within the hospital. I had the opportunity to present and discuss my own research with the faculty and we have been able to establish several exciting areas of collaboration between Cedars-Sinai and the Clinical Research Imaging Centre in Edinburgh. These are focused on coupling our experience in vascular  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF PET with their expertise in image analysis. Encouragingly I have recently been awarded the Young Investigator of the Year Award by the Radiology Society of North America on the basis of this work and the first manuscript has just been accepted by Circulation.

I greatly enjoyed my experience in Los Angeles and would highly recommend the BCS/ACC imaging preceptorship both on a personal and professional level. In my opinion such programs offer an unparalleled opportunity for collaboration and closer working links between the UK and the USA and I would like to thank John Harold, Keith Fox and Nick Boon in particular for their help in setting up the program and Daniel Berman and Ronald Karlsberg for welcoming me so warmly. I am very much looking forward to maintaining these links in to the future and visiting Los Angeles again.



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