

Student Elective Report

Name	Luke Geoghegan
Medical School	Imperial College London
Email (optional)	

Country visited	India
City or town	Coimbatore
Hospital/unit/clinic	Ganga Hospital
Dates visited	April-May 2019
Supervising doctor	Dr R Sabapathy
Contact details of your host:	Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	<p>Ganga hospital is a 450-bed tertiary referral centre for plastic and orthopaedic surgery serving patients across Asia. The department of Plastic surgery, Hand, Microsurgery, Faciomaxillary Surgery and Burns performs over 9000 surgical procedures annually including 255 major upper limb reconstructions, 220 free flap reconstructions and over 500 brachial plexus reconstructions.</p> <p>Ganga has received over 1500 international trainees to date. During my time at Ganga I was fully integrated into the department and was able to observe a high volume of complex reconstructive procedures including congenital hand deformities, brachial plexus reconstruction, limb replantation, cross-leg flaps, tendon transfers, toe-to-hand transfers and a plethora of acute orthoplastic procedures. A significant number of patients presented with morbid sequelae following improper management at other regional clinics. Patients often presented with established osteomyelitis and extensive wound contamination alongside chronic sequelae such as Volkmann's Contracture.</p> <p>Ganga prides itself on its established ethos of innovation and teaching. I was fortunate enough to attend departmental teaching sessions on topics ranging from thumb biomechanics to principles of orbital reconstruction delivered by registrars and senior consultants alike. Further, I was invited to share my experiences working with the RSTN and present results from my academic work at the weekly departmental lecture.</p>
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words)	The sheer breadth and volume of elective and traumatic reconstructive surgical procedures offered at Ganga is unparalleled. The plastic surgery operating theatre complex houses 9 theatres with a caseload of

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max)	around 30 elective and 20 emergency cases on a daily basis. Within my first week I had seen digital and major limb replantation, countless extremity salvage procedures and an unprecedented number of congenital upper limb deformities. I was also struck by the effective and efficient multi-disciplinary care offered to patients with acute traumatic injuries. Within minutes of arriving, patients are resuscitated, placed under local block and transported up to the OT.
What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	There is a language barrier as most consultations are conducted in Tamil. This is readily overcome as all consultants discussed cases with international fellows in English. All notes are written in English and case files are supplemented with excellent photo records.
What accommodation was provided?	Hospital accommodation is provided, I opted to stay in a nearby hotel.
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	Yes, I would wholeheartedly recommend this placement for anyone who has an interest in catastrophic limb trauma, burns and congenital abnormalities.
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	Absolutely.