

Name	Neil Morton
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Country visited	South Africa
City or town	Cape Town
Hospital/unit/clinic	COMOC 2016 Conference
Dates visited	11 th -15 th April 2016
Supervising doctor	Mr P Bates
Contact details of your host:	(Combined Orthopaedic Associations Meeting 2016 Conference), Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town.

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	<p>During the conference I was able to attend a variety of talks on different aspects of orthopaedic surgery, many with a focus on plastic surgery, to further my academic undergraduate study. The most important reason for attending however was to make a presentation on our research paper, on the importance of orthoplastic expertise in patient outcomes for open tibial fractures. This was the culmination of a year of data gathering and research to look at the effect of the recruitment of a plastic surgeon, and his presence at vital points in a trauma patient's journey, on specific patient outcomes.</p> <p>During the visit I was also able to explore the city and learn more about its rich cultural history, as well as get a taste of the different demographics which make up the city and which translate into very different experiences for healthcare professionals working there as opposed to in the UK.</p>
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)	<p>This was a fascinating opportunity to both present some research at an international conference as well as meeting orthopaedic surgeons from around the world. It was also great to visit Cape Town itself during the week!</p>
What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	<p>Registration and recognition of presenting the paper as a medical student- it was a challenge administratively although achieved in the end.</p>

What accommodation was provided?	None – own accommodation required
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	Yes- a great opportunity as an undergraduate and an invaluable experience to have presented at an international conference.
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	Yes, although given most of this experience was not in a theatre or involving learned techniques of plastic surgery this is not entirely applicable. It was a great atmosphere at the conference, and the process of doing the research itself allowed me to learn more about plastic surgery, a topic which is I feel neglected in the undergraduate curriculum.