

World University Anatomy Challenge 2012 A Doctors Academy Event

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The World Journal of Medical Education and Research (WJMER) is the online publication of the Doctors Academy Group of Educational Establishments. Published on a quarterly basis, it's aim is to promote academia and research amongst all members of the multi-disciplinary healthcare team including doctors, dentists, scientists, and students of these specialties from all parts of the world. The principal objective of this journal is to encourage the aforementioned from developing countries in particular to publish their work. The journal intends to promote the healthy transfer of knowledge, opinions and expertise between those who have the benefit of cutting edge technology and those who need to innovate within their resource constraints. It is our hope that this will help to develop medical knowledge and to provide optimal clinical care in different settings all over the world. We envisage an incessant stream of information will flow along the channels that WJMER will create and that a surfeit of ideas will be gleaned from this process. We look forward to sharing these experiences with our readers in our subsequent editions. We are honoured to welcome you to WJMER.





WJMER

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World University Anatomy Challenge 2012 A Doctors Academy Event

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An article from the winner (joint with Ms Pophali) of the World University Anatomy Challenge 2012, a competition consisting of 219 participants from 116 Universities representing 36 countries



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Regarding the Doctors Academy flagship event the *Future Excellence International Medical Summer School (FEIMSS) 2012*, I have the honour to compose an exposition on my experiences of this event as a student representing the University of Antwerp, Belgium. I immediately state without reservation that it has been a life-enriching experience and it has greatly contributed to shaping my understanding of medicine in the context of a UK healthcare system.

As I was actively searching for a summer school to participate in, I contacted the Belgian Medical Student's Association. They gave me several options but as I was gathering information, there was only one event that really caught my eye; the FEIMSS.

All the information that I required was on the Doctors Academy website, from how to register to what time one was expected to show up on the first day. The faculty made it really easy to arrange accommodation (the halls of residence are situated on Manchester University

Campus, which is in close proximity to University Place, the venue for the FEIMSS event) and information is provided on how to go from the airport to the campus. To address individual needs, applicants can choose from more than a dozen disciplines; both surgical as well as medical ones. Moreover, all of this information is available online one year in advance.

The 2012 FEIMSS was an absolutely amazing week. It brought together more than 200 students from over 115 universities representing 36 countries to share the same experience which was truly unique and inspiring. As everybody was being allocated to groups on Sunday evening, friendships were already starting to forge. What made this week so special was how people from different parts of the world gathered together and interacted with one another, talking about and discussing similar interests.

The courses were divided into theoretical lessons and practical classes. A broad range of topics were discussed

by a whole host of guest speakers, each speaker was a specialist in his or her own field. For example in neurosurgery, topics ranged from the first principles in a basic neurological examination to the latest cutting edge developments in brain and spinal surgery. Real time video material is used to explain the process of several operations which makes the cases less abstract and easier to understand. In the practical classes we were taught how to approximate an incision site, how to work with laparoscopic devices, the basics on how to place orthopaedic plates and external prostheses and much, much more. We were constantly learning in an informal setting which makes the acquisition of knowledge an enjoyable endeavour.

Although this event is organized to enhance our medical knowledge and procedural skills, the social aspects cannot be overlooked. To cover the educational arena as well as the social one, there was a perfect balance between classes and free time. During the day we were expected at the school to follow the course and during the evening we were free to participate in the organized social activities or to plan something by ourself. I loved participating in the social events as we went for drinks in traditional English pubs, played footie with the lads in the middle of nowhere, went dancing in one of the best nightclubs in Manchester and much more. These activities provided the perfect opportunity to meet new people and create new friendships. Friendships with people you never thought you would meet.

Moreover, I would like to highlight the World University Anatomy Challenge 2012, the first of its kind. This was a competition that was held during the summer school week, giving 219 participants the unique opportunity to test their anatomical knowledge. And as the winner of this event I was asked to outline the factors that got me to gain the first prize in this competition.

In my humble opinion, the first and most important characteristic for a medical student to win this challenge is a passionate interest in anatomy and how the human body functions. Anatomy always has to occupy some recess in your mind, even when you are watching TV, eating dinner with your family or playing soccer. As they say, you can only really understand the function of an organ and the correlated pathology if you apprehend its anatomical features. And wanting to see the connection between anatomical features and function implies that one has a genuine interest. In this regard I often take time to ponder on what happens during seemingly mundane activities such as during a run; I ask myself which muscles I am using or which way my blood is traveling. Not in an obsessive way, mind you, but in a way that keeps me focused on how anatomy is associated with function. Thus, I repeat my anatomy in a natural manner and make sure I retain it.

The World University Anatomy Challenge gave me the chance to test my anatomical knowledge on an international level and compete with medical students from over 30 different countries. It comprised of questions for which answers can be sought in hundreds of different books, written in hundreds of different languages, but somehow I managed to make a difference. And in that way, it made me realize the purpose of learning and studying about things you are really interested in. And for that I would like to thank the entire faculty at Doctors Academy.

And last but by no means the least I'd like to thank my teammate, Ms Prachi Pophali who represented India, for having been the perfect team mate.

Once again I would like to emphasize how much I enjoyed attending this event and how inspiring the week was. It was a truly unique experience.



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