

Military & Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem Commandery of Wales

Elective Student Bursary Report Joseph Jude-Gubral Week Four

Week Four

Jude writes ...

During my fourth week I was in surgery. I managed to see some interesting cases and went to the operating theatre for an interactive teaching session. I also had an opportunity to visit the local leprosy clinic. This was a very interesting experience. Due to the stigma surrounding leprosy, the clinic is not known as the "Leprosy clinic" but is known as the local normal skin clinic.

Patients with leprosy were given a fast track service, so that they could be seen by the doctor as soon as they arrive. There weren't that many patients coming to the clinic. The day I was in the clinic, only one leprosy patient turned up.

This clinic gave me the opportunity to discuss the clinical management of leprosy with the consultant- predominantly aggressive Rifampicin treatment- and the signs of leprosy - white painless skin patch which is the first early presentation of the disease. The consultant was talking about how the improvement in treatment has significantly reduced the number of leprosy affected people in Sri Lanka.

Overall it was an interesting fourth week which was completed with a religious pilgrimage to Hiniduma.



Photo of me with my fellow elective students.

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Photo of me with Dr Joy in the leprosy clinic.

Finally a big thank you to Dr Woolf and the members of the Order of St Lazarus Commandery of Wales for awarding me this bursary! The St Lazarus Bursary helped to fund my elective studies and gave me an opportunity to understand the effects of leprosy in Sri Lanka. I now have a better understanding of how the stigma of leprosy can affect a sufferer's livelihood and their family. I have also had an opportunity to see the work of the Leprosy Mission in Sri Lanka. Thank you all for your generosity!