

**Military & Hospitaller of St Lazarus of Jerusalem
Grand Priory of England & Wales
Commandery of Wales**



Student Bursary: Elective Report 2020

Week 3

I continue my placement in the Paediatric department this week. We started off with conference which discussed recent developments in paediatric research. This was followed by a large ward round with over 30 doctors! I found it really helpful that we were all given a wireless stethoscope with an antennae which connected with a probe attached to the stethoscope of the doctor examining the patients. This meant that although I couldn't get too close, I could hear the breath sounds and abdominal sounds really well.

Unfortunately, one of the patients on the ward had an epileptic fit this week. I had to help put them in the recovery position. It was very daunting as I also had to time the fit to see whether the patient would require medication for a prolonged fit also known as status epilepticus. The doctors were incredibly reassuring and put me at ease. The patient was so exhausted partially from the continuous contractions of their muscles that they were drowsy afterwards. It is often difficult to diagnose epilepsy at first as a second fit is required to confirm the diagnosis and categorise the type of epilepsy. I find the combination of paediatrics and neurology fascinating.

I also helped a technician carry out an Electroencephalogram (EEG) which is a recording of brain activity. During the test, I attached lots of small electrodes to the patient's scalp to help pick up the electrical signals produced when brain cells send messages to each other. These signals are recorded by a machine and are looked at by a specialist to see if there are any unusual patterns. The patient was a five year old boy who had global developmental and motor delay. I had been told by the doctor that the parents had noticed the child's eyes continually wandering to the right hand side. The test was being done to see if there was an evidence of absent seizures, which are common in younger people.

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This week I went to the famous Shibuya crossing also known as Scramble crossing, it stops vehicles in all directions to allow pedestrians to cross the entire intersection. It is a common meeting place and was incredibly crowded! I also went to visit the site of some of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic games stadiums. I had my photo by pictures of the rings and the logos. I have heard that if the coronavirus epidemic worsens in Japan then the Olympic games may need to be hosted by another nation. Let's hope that doesn't happen as it is an incredible city and the people here are very excited for the summer!

Unfortunately, I have been told by my exchange supervisors that the number of patients with coronavirus is getting worse. They believe it may become more difficult for UK and American citizens to leave due to immigration restrictions in the future. They have therefore advised me to leave prematurely. I am disappointed that my time in Japan has been shortened but I understand that the nature of the coronavirus epidemic can change at any moment.

Thank you to those members of the Commandery who have sent emails of support during this difficult time. I will let you know when I return.