

Nepal doctor learns specialty's art, science

Shambhu Dutta Joshi, MD, traveled from his home country of Nepal in June to New York to study dermatologic surgery as part of the ASDS International Preceptorship Program. By learning the latest dermatologic surgery procedures, he found himself inspired and ready to take his new knowledge back home to share with others.

Selected as the 2014 International Preceptee, Dr. Joshi is a third-year resident at Bir Hospital in Nepal, which sees more than 31,000 patients annually – just in the dermatology department.

He selected Monica L. Halem, MD, as his Preceptor. Her practice covers the entire breadth of dermatology from skin cancer to cosmetic procedures. Dr. Halem is the founder and director of the New York Dermatologic Surgery Cosmetic and Laser Center in New York City.

Days were long and challenging, but “the cases were so interesting that I never felt tired,” Dr. Joshi said. At Dr. Halem’s practice, he was able to learn about a wide variety of procedures, including neuromodulators, soft-tissue

fillers and laser procedures.

In addition to cosmetic procedures, Dr. Joshi also learned “the latest trends in western dermatologic surgery and how to effectively run and manage a clinic, including recording, reporting and monitoring.”

Dr. Halem’s positive attitude during consultations with her patients also provided a teaching moment. Dr. Joshi was able to learn not only the technical side of dermatologic surgery, but also the art of it all. “Dr. Halem is not only a good dermatologist but also an excellent teacher. She taught me a lot about the art of medicine just by consulting with her patients with a smile on her face,” said Dr. Joshi.

Overall, the experience left Dr. Joshi feeling very inspired to take all this new knowledge back home to share with others.

“I would like to express great thanks to Dr. Halem, her staff and her patients for giving me the opportunity to learn and guiding me as well as ASDS for such a great chance to transfer the new knowledge, fulfilling learning experiences and new skills in technology from this

program back to my country. I am sure that it will help us to promote excellence in the field of advanced dermatologic surgery and to nurture the highest standard of quality of patient care. I really feel that ASDS is the world’s best society for dermatologic surgery,” Dr. Joshi said.

Each year, one Preceptee is selected to visit a host in the United States or Canada. There, he or she is able to watch clinical and surgical procedures and shadow administrative staff – leaving with new knowledge that will enhance the care of patients back home. Funding is provided by the Lawrence M. Field, MD, International Dermatologic Surgery Education Exchange Fund.

“I would like to thank the ASDS Preceptorship Program. I was fortunate to be the recipient of the ASDS International Preceptorship,” said Dr. Joshi. ■



International Preceptorship

Shambhu Dutta Joshi, MD (back right), of Nepal, shares his experiences of his trip to the United States in summer 2014, working with Monica L. Halem, MD, and her staff at the New York Dermatologic Surgery Cosmetic and Laser Center.

Interested in the 2015 program?

The International Preceptorship Program, which assists an international dermatologic surgeon in learning clinical and surgical techniques from an ASDS member in the United States or Canada, will be accepting applications in the spring.

ASDS members also can volunteer to host an International Preceptee. Learn more at asds.net/International-Preceptorship.

Industry news

Merz Merz and Ulthera Inc. finalized a transaction for Merz to acquire Ulthera, the medical device company. The addition of Ulthera’s energy-device technology complements Merz’s current product offerings and expands its line of specialty aesthetic pharmaceuticals. This acquisition is the largest in Merz’s history and is valued at up to \$600 million.

Ulthera Ulthera Inc. announced that it has received FDA clearance to non-invasively treat the chest to improve lines and wrinkles on the décolleté. The Ultherapy Decolletage Treatment utilizes the system’s signature micro-focused ultrasound therapy. The treatment stimulates the natural formation of collagen and elastin in the skin’s foundation.

Cynosure The PicoSure laser for tattoo removal and benign pigmented lesions received FDA clearance to treat acne scars. PicoSure delivers ultra-short pulses of energy to the skin, increasing the density and length of elastin fibers and increased collagen deposition to help reduce the appearance of scars. ■