



ASDS International Preceptorship Program

Filipino Dermatologist Visits New York for Month-Long Preceptorship

The ASDS International Preceptorship Program enables an international dermatologic surgeon to visit and shadow a preceptor in the U.S. and expand his or her knowledge of procedures, advanced techniques and patient care not available in his or her home country. This program is offered exclusively to ASDS members and members of international societies (based on work group approval) practicing dermatologic surgery full-time in a private or academic, non-U.S. dermatologic surgery institution.

Dermatologic surgery has always been of great interest to me since residency training. Through the ASDS International Preceptorship Program, I am fortunate to have been mentored by Ronald Shelton, MD, of the Laser and Skin Surgery Center of New York, who was not only passionate in his field of specialty but also dedicated in teaching.

From pre-procedural instructions to the actual Mohs surgery through post-operative care, I was able to observe how different techniques and strategies are used to produce the highest cure rate, minimize scarring and prevent infections and other complications, especially when cases were challenging. It was not just about getting the work done, but rather providing the best clinical, surgical and cosmetic outcome for the patient. Dr. Shelton explained to me the rationale behind these techniques as well as wound closure designs including flaps and grafts in relation to the anatomy and function of the skin and its adjacent structures. I also had the opportunity to discuss the histopathological findings with him and correlate these with any skin changes we saw along the surgical margins.

I am grateful that my weeks of preceptorship allowed me to see the

patients also in their post-operative follow-ups and to observe how the skin recovers and how wounds and grafts heal in different stages. Aside from consults, the afternoons were spent in cosmetic treatments where I was able to further enhance my knowledge in use of lasers, including safety precautions, and application of neuromodulators and soft-tissue fillers to have natural-looking results. Dr. Shelton encouraged questions and discussions of all cases seen, which greatly facilitated more learning.

Aside from being an expert in dermatologic surgery, Dr. Shelton knows how to listen to his patients and address their concerns. I learned a lot from how he interacted and communicated with them from their first consult to the actual procedure up and in follow-up care. I admire how he involves patients in the treatment process by explaining to them their disease, benefits and risks of the procedure, possible outcomes and proper wound care. He knows how to make them feel comfortable. I have witnessed first-hand how proper doctor-patient communication can greatly ease a patient's anxiety, manage unrealistic expectations and improve overall treatment outcome.

Not only was I able to learn the art of Mohs surgery, cosmetic procedures and patient communication, but I was also able to get tips from Dr. Shelton on how to

successfully run a clinic, from the day-to-day operation to effective training and management of staff. He was very professional in dealing with the nurses, technicians and staff and respects everyone's contribution and suggestions in improving the team, and hence, the quality of service provided to patients.

I am deeply grateful to ASDS and the Lawrence M. Field, MD, International Dermatologic Surgery Educational Exchange Fund for this wonderful experience and to Dr. Ronald Shelton, his patients and whole team for the valuable lessons and for warmly welcoming me into their clinic. I can definitely say that I left New York City possessing not only new and advanced knowledge in dermatologic surgery but also beautiful memories. ●



Karen Abigail Santos, MD, DPDS
Manila, Philippines



Fields Scholarship Recipients Detail Their ASDS Annual Meeting Experiences

The Kenneth W. Fields, MD, Resident Education Enrichment Scholarship Program is designed to enrich and support the educational development for five, second-year residents offering the opportunity to attend various ASDS events throughout the year.

David Kim, MD

The 2018 ASDS Annual Meeting was fantastic. All the pioneers and leaders in cosmetic dermatologic surgery and Mohs micrographic surgery gathered to present their latest research and push our field forward. It was also a great opportunity to catch up with my peers and mentors. The highlight of the conference was the “Breaking Bad: Confessions of Managing Cosmetic and Reconstructive Complications” session. Mathew Avram, MD, JD, shared a fascinating case of a British patient who visited the ER after getting fillers for penile augmentation. The glans had ulcerated, and it required multiple treatments with hyaluronidase and close clinical monitoring before the complications had resolved. It highlighted how we, as physicians, have to learn to solve complications caused by third parties, such as med spas and aesthetic centers, as there is an increasing number of cosmetic centers run by non-MDs.

The Twelfth Annual Iron Surgeon Competition was incredibly entertaining and educational as well. The update on the ongoing controversy of the underlying causes of delayed adverse effects of vycross fillers – infectious versus hypersensitivity reaction – and the treatment options, including ILK, hyaluronidase, oral prednisone or combination of these treatments, was interesting. Also, the fact that the incidence of DAE is higher in the flu season was an interesting observation.

One of my favorite speakers from the Premier Resident Cosmetic Symposium,

Kristel Polder, MD, also gave a fantastic talk on how she started her private practice. The entire panel was incredibly honest and willing to share, and they each provided fantastic tips on how to create a successful practice. It’s inspiring to watch our mentors take calculated risks and channel their entrepreneurial ambitions to building world-class dermatologic practices.

Overall, the ASDS Annual meeting was fantastic, and I’m incredibly grateful to the Kenneth W. Fields, MD, Resident Education Enrichment Scholarship for the opportunity to attend.

Grace Kim, MD

I am thankful for the opportunity to participate in the 2018 ASDS Annual Meeting in Phoenix. The conference was a valuable educational experience in diverse aspects of surgical and cosmetic dermatology. In particular, I enjoyed the hands-on workshops and cutting-edge research updates. I came away with useful knowledge and practical tips on everything from complicated Mohs closures to ethnic differences in aesthetics and beauty standards.

Moreover, as I am currently in the process of applying for a procedural dermatology fellowship, the meeting was a priceless opportunity to network and meet experts as well as peers in the field of procedural dermatology. I am incredibly thankful to ASDS and the generous Kenneth W. Fields, MD, Resident Education Enrichment Program Scholarship, which made it possible for me to attend the 2018 ASDS Annual Meeting.

Joshua Owen, MD, PhD

Attending the 2018 ASDS Annual Meeting in Phoenix was a blast! It was full of opportunities to further my dermatologic surgery education. I learned so much from the educational sessions that covered topics on the cutting edge of our field and took away numerous tips that I have already started to implement on my own patients. I was also able to meet many leaders within the field of dermatologic surgery, which was a real treat.

Finally, it provided a forum for camaraderie with fellow dermatology residents from around the country. ASDS has played such an important role towards my career development. The ASDS Annual Meeting is yet another shining example of the focus ASDS has on educating future leaders in dermatologic surgery. I will be sure to be a perennial attendant of future ASDS Annual Meetings!

Michele Zerah, MD

I would recommend the ASDS Annual Meeting to all residents considering a career in dermatologic surgery and procedural dermatology. This meeting provided an excellent opportunity to learn from the leaders in our field on a variety of topics. I was able to learn about the most recent advances in injectables and other cosmetic procedures, as well as invaluable practical advice about starting a career after training. All of the speakers were approachable and eager to meet resident attendees. After attending the meeting, I am confident that as a member of ASDS, I will have the mentorship and support I need in my post-residency career. ●