

## **My experience of Bursary Award 2006:**

I am currently working as a Specialist Practitioner at South West London. I have completed post graduate diploma in breast imaging and currently I am studying dissertation at Masters level.

I started my career as a Senior 1 Mammographer at central London since 2007. I progressed as an advanced practitioner after completing courses on post graduate award in mammography, principles and practice in breast interventional techniques, clinical breast examination and client communication, image interpretation and reporting, ultrasound of breast and research methods.

I worked in Nepal as an in-charge (superintendent) in mammography unit in teaching hospital and cancer hospital since 1994. I went to Belgium for international mammography training program in 2005. One of the mammographers in Belgium gave me information about Symposium Mammographicum Bursary award. My application to the Scheme was successful and meant that I could attend their conference in Bournemouth in 2006. This event not only gave me an opportunity to attend informative symposium mammographicum scientific sessions but also enabled me to explore UK clinical practice, education systems and a different culture. Symposium Mammographicum also arranged my visit to Poole Breast Screening Centre in Dorset as part of a clinical attachment. The Centre's staff were very generous with their welcome and offer of accommodation during my stay. The visit to the Poole Breast Screening Centre not only gave me a scenario of the tremendous potential career ladder for mammographers from senior radiographer to advanced practitioner to consultant radiographer. I also visited Liverpool Broadgreen University Hospital where I also got an opportunity to spend time at the Linda McCartney Breast Screening centre where I saw the range of work undertaken by Consultant Radiographers. Those visits inspired me to develop myself as a consultant mammographer in the future.

Upon returning to Nepal after my bursary award, I shared my experience via a presentation of my visit to the United Kingdom to my colleagues and students, especially about recent advances in mammography like

- digital mammography,
- digital breast screening mobile van,
- stereotactic breast interventions,
- vacuum assisted biopsy and
- advanced practice in mammography.

from which it is possible to progress to become a consultant mammographer. I was able to introduce some working practices in my department for e.g. more strict in the quality control in mammography equipment which enhanced the image quality for the early detection of breast cancer.

The experience I gained during that bursary award period made me decide to migrate to United Kingdom for a future career and to further my education. When I got my first job at United Kingdom in 2007, it wasn't difficult to adapt. I found the

education system very easy and flexible. Advanced Practice gives me a huge satisfaction at my daily work. The opportunity of a structured career ladder in United Kingdom is exemplary. I am now citizen of United Kingdom and proud to serve NHS Healthcare service for breast cancer detection with quality care to the patients.

My success in gaining qualifications, achievements and satisfaction in career progression not only goes to my family and colleagues but also goes to Bursary Award Symposium Mammographicum which gave me a platform to explore healthcare system in United Kingdom. I wish every success to Symposium Mammographicum.

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