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ISS/SIC Travel Scholar of the 47th WCS, Basel, Switzerland

As an ISS/SIC Travel Scholar, at the outset, I thank the selection committee for having given me this opportunity. To be able to attend the World Congress of Surgery at Basel, Switzerland was a true honor.

The Davos GI course, with hands on experience on a number of laparoscopic and conventional surgeries, was a completely different experience. Individual attention to each participant with practical tips that help you bail out of a sticky situation, were greatly appreciated.

It also was a good platform to interact with professionals from other nations and discuss the varied surgical techniques being practiced in other parts of the world.

Meeting the stalwarts of surgery, the likes of Prof Marco Patti, Prof Kenneth Boffard, and putting a face to the names we regularly encounter in our textbooks was an experience in itself. Enthusiasm of the Senior Faculty was contagious and made me realize that there's no substitute to hard work and dedication.

From day 4 to day 6, Writers Workshop in the morning, before the start of Congress was also something which I enjoyed being a part of. It helped me allay my fear of writing and gave me an insight into the thought process of a reviewer. During the day, the Lectures were well distributed and care was taken to ensure minimal overlap of Sessions. Presentations were very informative and to the point.

The Congress also gave me an opportunity to interact with other Delegates and Senior Faculty who were forthcoming and helped me open doors for future prospects. Interaction with my fellow scholars, not just widened my horizons regarding good work being done but also highlighted the similar difficulties faced by surgeons everywhere, especially by those serving in austere environments.

Thank you once again for this great opportunity.