Simon Morris

Fellowship Report

20th International Copenhagen Advanced ESS & Anterior Skull Base Dissection Course

In 2026, I was successful in my application to the European Rhinologic Society (ERS) Fellowship to support my attendance at the Copenhagen Advanced ESS and Anterior Skull Base Course. This scholarship is open to ERS Junior Members who wish to develop their rhinology skills at various approved courses across Europe. On this particular course, we were under the tutorage of the esteemed Dr Christian von Buchwald, running this course for the 20th consecutive year (Dr von Buchwald showed me particular kindness being a Wales football fan, having lost to Denmark on two occasions in the preceding fortnight).

Both days of the course commenced with scenic views of Copenhagen's skyline from the Mærsk Tower. Lectures were delivered by the experienced local Danish faculty, including neurosurgeons and ophthalmic surgeons, as well as international speakers from the UK and Italy. The first day provided a comprehensive revision of sinonasal anatomy and principles of endoscopic sinus surgery.



In the dissection lab, we were provided with CT-scanned fresh frozen cadavers, surgical navigation systems and all the endoscopic instruments any rhinologist could wish for. Following live demonstrations of day 1's tasks, we embarked on comprehensive ESS, arterial ligation and Carolyn's window techniques, with high faculty-to-student ratios. Day 2 allowed further advanced skills to be pursued, such as Draf 3 frontal sinus drill-



out, CSF repair techniques, medial maxillectomy, pituitary access and orbital decompression. Both days had ample dissection time under the guidance of the expert faculty to optimise surgical outcomes and gain confidence in managing challenging skull base lesions.

As a final year trainee, this was an invaluable educational experience to enhance my endoscopic skills; not only challenging some of my fundamental skills in ESS, but also to enhance my endoscopic anterior skull base skills that I will apply during my fellowship and future consultant rhinology career. I would not hesitate to recommend both this course and the ERS Travelling Fellowship to my colleagues.

I am extremely grateful for generosity of ERS in presenting me with this opportunity.

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