

first ASDS International Preceptee shares experience

Introduced in 2011, the ASDS International Preceptorship Program enhances the specialty of dermatologic surgery by assisting international dermatologic surgeons in learning new procedures and advanced techniques not available in their country of origin.

Preceptees engage in one-on-one clinical and surgical observations, shadow staff involved in departmental administrative functions, while examining best practices and operational strengths. Through this practical application of learning, preceptees have the opportunity to develop and enhance their clinical knowledge to take back and share with colleagues, and therefore advance care for patients in their home countries.

international preceptee report

In August 2011, Chang-Hun Huh, MD, PhD, a dermatologic surgeon and assistant professor of Seoul National University Bundang Hospital in South Korea, was the first ASDS International Preceptee.

“It is a great honor for me to be the first International Preceptee and have a chance to report my activity in America,” Dr. Huh wrote in his preceptee report.

Dr. Huh has performed dermatologic surgery procedures for seven years in Korea and the majority of his practice covers skin cancer excision and reconstruction, hair transplantation, liposuction, lasers, fillers and botulinum toxin injection. During his visit, his goal was to learn Mohs surgery in a daily practice setting and patient care after skin tumor surgery. Although approved by the Korean government a few years ago, only a few centers continue to perform Mohs surgery in Korea due to fee restrictions and that pathologic readings by Mohs surgeons are not considered to be legal medical records

“There’s no official way to become a dermatologic surgeon in Korea. But I was trained personally since I was a second-year resident by my Korean mentor, Dr. Sang-Eun Moon, who is one of the first generations of Korean dermatologic surgeons,” Dr. Huh wrote. “I decided to be a dermatologic surgeon during my residency, because these were the only

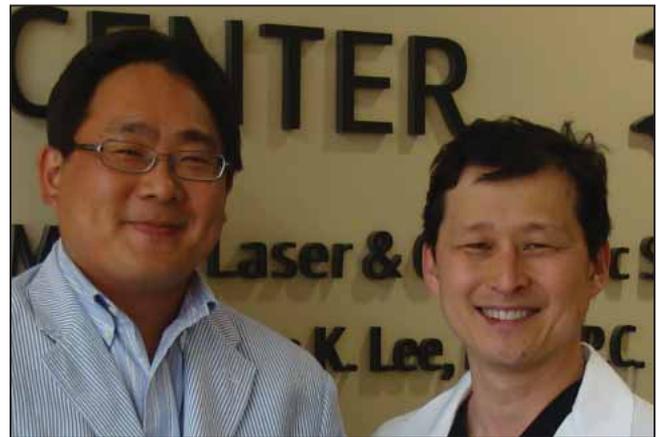
dermatologists who could say to the patient, ‘Everything is done. You are cured.’

Ken K. Lee, MD, was Dr. Huh’s preceptor and the first preceptor to take part in this program. Dr. Lee is in private practice at the Portland Dermatology Clinic.

“Dr. Lee gladly gave me an opportunity to visit and I had a great week in Portland, Oregon,” Dr. Huh wrote. “The internal structures of the clinic were amazing. Dr. Lee efficiently designed it for Mohs surgery himself. Every room and the equipment was designed and installed to minimize staff movements. The nurses’ station and processing room for pathologic slides are located in the center surrounded by operating rooms, which enable resources to be used most effectively.

Dr. Huh was able to shadow Dr. Lee throughout the week and relay his experience.

“Moving between Mohs stages, consultations and reading slides, I was running after him without having time to even breathe,” Dr. Huh wrote. “Dr. Lee and his staff are not only efficient, but mesh perfectly together, so much so that



Drs. Huh and Lee

I could not find any mistakes during each patient visit. Their speed and accuracy came from their systemized workflow and constant communication. I could feel their effort to make it perfect.”

This was the first time Dr. Huh had the opportunity to observe patient consultations in America. He noted several differences from how he practiced in South Korea and tips to improve his daily practice.

“The biggest difference was there’s no desk between the patient and doctor,” Dr. Huh wrote. “In Korea, the medical record is the most important item in daily practice, thus the desk to keep the medical records is essential in the consultation room. Sometimes, we do not even see the patient’s face due to being pressed for time. But Dr. Lee always tries

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to keep eye contact with patients and answers all their questions. Even during operations, he explains every step to the patient and makes them feel comfortable and competent. Important points for after surgery care were printed as a reminder, in easily understood words. Of course, Dr. Lee and his staff never lost their sense of smile to the patients. I have no idea why I was so serious in operation room. Maybe I have forgotten the fact that patients prefer good-heartedness to authority. One more point I learned was that he does not routinely topical antibiotics after surgery. We know most skin tumor surgery is performed on a clean wound, thus usually antibiotics are not needed, but we use them without much consideration to protect ourselves from legal problems in case of wound infection. But he follows scientific data and has a very low infection rate. Additionally, he will often use fast-absorbing gut sutures to eliminate an extra visit for suture removal for appropriate patients.”

Dr. Huh said that he had enjoyed his experience and had learned a great deal. “Finally, I would like to express great thanks to Dr. Lee, his staff and the patients for giving me the opportunity to learn,” Dr. Huh wrote. “I’m sure that through these kinds of international activity exchanges, experiences and knowledge, ASDS can stand as the world’s best society of dermatologic surgery.”

International Preceptees must reside outside the US or Canada; be a member of the ASDS or ISDS, and be in the third year or higher of a qualified dermatology training program.

The visit must take place with one of the already established ASDS Preceptors. This program is funded by the Lawrence Field, MD International Dermatologic Surgery Educational Exchange Fund. To apply to be the 2012 International Preceptee, please contact Vanessa Spinnato, ASDS Education Program Manager, at 847-956-9124 or vspinnato@asds.net.

preceptee reports

**Preceptee: Anthony Rossi, MD
New York, N.Y.**

**Preceptor: Ronald Moy, MD
Beverly Hills, Calif.**



Anthony Rossi, MD

As the fortunate recipient of the ASDS preceptorship, I not only garnered a wonderful educational experience, but I also met a lifelong mentor.

I was extremely excited to learn from Ronald Moy, MD, at his practice in Los Angeles. He welcomed me openly. I learned a great deal from my time there. He included me in all patient discussions and he and his fellow doctors and staff made me feel like part of the team. I was able to see every patient with Dr. Moy and observed him during Mohs excisions and repairs as well as neurotoxin injections, injectable fillers, and numerous laser procedures, such as fractionally ablative Er:YAG and fractional CO₂ laser resurfacing. I also had the chance to assist in larger surgeries such as blepharoplasties and minimally invasive face lifts. It was inspiring to see how varied Dr. Moy’s practice is and how day-to-day life is.

I valued spending time with Dr. Moy as he evaluated the patients and consulted with them about the risks and benefits of each treatment option. It was invaluable to learn from Dr. Moy’s individualized approach to each patient. These are the most valuable lessons that can only be taught by great mentors such as Dr. Moy.

Dr. Moy also took time to talk about my future plans for after residency and the application process for Mohs and procedural dermatology fellowships. He provided me with wonderful advice on how to balance a successful career and personal life and demonstrated how to run an efficient practice.

I would also like to continue working on dermatology advocacy and Dr. Moy exemplified how one can not only be a great clinician for patients, but also a wonderful colleague and mentor. He is able to manage his professional and family life almost effortlessly and is something I hope to emulate. The preceptorship was an invaluable experience for me. Dr. Moy is not only a great dermatologic surgeon, but a wonderful teacher. I would like to thank Dr. Moy and the entire practice as well as the ASDS for such a formative experience.

**Preceptee: Kejal Shah, MD
Dallas, Texas**

**Preceptor: Neil Sadick, MD
New York, N.Y.**



Kejal Shah, MD

I had an absolutely amazing experience, during my preceptorship, with Neil Sadick, MD, in New York City. Dr. Sadick was a great mentor and very approachable.

I was able to learn several procedural techniques, including liposuction, various laser treatments, fillers, Botox, and the office practice of cosmetic dermatology. I also had the wonderful opportunity to work with one of Dr. Sadick’s colleagues, Misbah Khan, MD. She was an excellent teacher, as well and also very personable.

I thank ASDS for providing me this wonderful opportunity.

The ASDS Preceptorship Program is made possible in part by generous educational grants from Allergan and Medicis, the Dermatology Company.® More than 492 ASDS members have had the opportunity to spend time in another member’s practice, expanding their knowledge, skill and experience. The program also succeeds in achieving two foremost goals of the ASDS: to promote excellence in the field of dermatologic surgery and to foster the highest standards of patient care. ■