

Long hours and superstorm provide learning opportunities for International Preceptee

The ASDS International Preceptorship Program continues to advance the specialty of dermatologic surgery by giving international dermatologic surgeons hands-on learning experience with new techniques, procedures and more that may not be available in their home country. One Preceptee is selected per year to visit a host in the United States or Canada. There, they are able to watch clinical and surgical procedures and shadow administrative staff. They leave with new knowledge that will enhance the care of their patients back home.

Sudip Parajuli, MD, was selected as the 2012 International Preceptee. He currently works at the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal. “My sincere thanks goes to the ASDS for selecting me as a Preceptee and Prof. Lawrence M. Field for his generous financial support for this program,” he said.

He selected David Hermogense Ciocon, MD – a clinical instructor in Dermatology and Mohs Micrographic Surgery at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York,

N.Y. and Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, N.Y. – to be his Preceptor during the course of the program. After making the 22-hour journey from Nepal to New York, Dr. Sudip (he uses his first name with the honorific) was exhausted – but after a day of rest and relaxation, he was ready to dive right in and start working with Dr. Ciocon.

“The working days were really hectic,” Dr. Sudip said, “starting in the early morning around 7:30 a.m. and ending by 7 p.m. and sometimes 9:30 p.m. I wasn’t used to such long working hours even during my residency days, but the cases were so interesting that I never felt tired.” Dr. Sudip assisted Dr. Ciocon with skin cancer removals, Mohs surgery, laser procedures, hair removal, blepharoplasty, neuromodulator and filler injections and ultrasound lifts. This was Dr. Sudip’s first time working with injectables and ultrasound, and he was excited to be learning so many new things.

Unfortunately, the last few days of his stay were cut short as Superstorm Sandy tore through New York, leaving many homes

and businesses, including Dr. Ciocon’s offices, flooded and without power. Dr. Sudip looked at the storm as another new learning experience. “It only made my stay more memorable,” he said, “and the worst situations in our lives are the ones that teach us to lead and to push our lives in new and better directions.”

Overall, Dr. Sudip said he felt the program was a great success. “As we learn new techniques, we can practice them in our country, which improves the standard of care. Additionally, the program fosters interaction between dermatologic surgeons and encourages them to exchange ideas, share experiences and bond, which ultimately helps advance dermatologic surgery in the long run,” he said. “I have nothing but heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Ciocon and his team for teaching and guiding me throughout this program.” ■



Sudip Parajuli, MD