

Oral Surgery Club of Great Britain. Report of visit to San Paolo University Hospital, Milan May 15th & 16th 2008.

37 members (35 active and 2 honorary) and 22 partners travelled to Milan to attend president Tony Markus's overseas meeting, which was hosted at the San Paolo Hospital by Professor Roberto Brusati. Tony and Roberto shared a common interest in cleft surgery and had become friends as they were both pupils of Delaire.

Most members arrived on Wednesday May 14th and stayed at the Ambasciatori Hotel which was conveniently located in the centre of Milan. On Wednesday evening most of us dined well at L'Isola del Tesoro, a Sardinian restaurant, which was a fairly lengthy stroll from the hotel.

On Thursday morning we left the Hotel at 7.30 and travelled by coach to the Hospital. Professor Brusati gave a lecture on Primary Cheilorhinoplasty, following which he demonstrated his technique by carrying out primary closure of the lip and palate in an 8 month old infant with the posterior palate closed in 3 layers. This was demonstrated by a video link to the operating theatre shown through the operating microscope, although a few of our number were able to go to the theatre. Following this demonstration we received a lecture on the results of his surgery from orthodontist Maria Meazzini which have been published. Professor Brusati gave a talk on his technique of secondary gingivoalveoloplasty carried out at 18 to 24 months of age and shared his results with us. After lunch he demonstrated the technique in theatre on a 3 year old child who had closure of the hard palate together with a gingivoalveoloplasty. Following a lecture on facial paralysis we were transported back to the hotel.

Later that afternoon the whole group travelled to Lake Como, which is some distance outside Milan, where we boarded a boat for a trip on the lake stopping once to take tea or beer. Later we returned to the boat and to the Locanda Dell' Isola Restaurant, which is situated on an island, for a delightful dinner. After dinner we travelled by boat and coach back to the Hotel in Milan, arriving very late.

On Thursday the accompanying persons were free to see the sights of Milan or to indulge in some shopping. On Friday they were treated to a tour and guide of the historic town of Pavia, visiting some of its main sights, including the basilica of San Pietro in Ciel d'Oro and other Romanesque churches.

For the second day the members returned to the Hospital. After a lecture on bone grafting for extreme atrophy we watched surgery for iliac crest bone augmentation of a mandible that needed augmentation following surgery for removal of a granuloma. Later Professor Brusati gave a lecture on early condylectomy for hemi mandibular hyperplasia and hemi mandibular elongation and particularly post operative management. Paolo Casentini, one of the Oral Surgeons who worked with Professor Brusati, lectured on their long term results for bone grafting and implant placement following severe atrophy or tumour resection, mostly using free fibula grafts.

In the evening we attended an informal club dinner at La Dolce Vita Restaurant which was a short walk away from the Hotel. Professor Brusati and his wife were guests. President Tony Markus thanked him for his hospitality and presented him with a carriage clock as a token of our appreciation. He also thanked Giulia Rossetti and Francesca Carrota who helped Tony do so much of the organisation in Milan.