

Indo-US Foot and Ankle Surgery Conference 2014

The 5th Annual Indo-US Foot and Ankle Surgery Conference, founded and sponsored by the Parekh Family Foundation, was held from January 10th to 12th in Jaipur, India. Since its inception five years ago, the aim of the conference is to disseminate and share techniques in foot and ankle surgery with orthopaedic surgeons from the United States, India, South Asia, Europe, and beyond. An international faculty comprised of delegates from these regions run academic informational sessions, oversee instructional sawbones courses, and perform surgery while narrating via live video feed to the conference's attendees.

This year's conference was run by Selene Parekh MD, MBA (International Course Chair), Rajiv Shah MBBS (National Course Chair), Mohin Zaveri (Course Patron), and Aashish Sharma MS and Jayant Sen MBBS (Joint Local Chairpersons).



The international invited faculty included: Scott Ellis MD (Hospital for Special Surgery, New York, NY), Vinod Panchbhavi MD (University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX), Bret Smith DO (Moore Center of Orthopaedics, Lexington, SC), Zankhna Parekh MS, PT (Therapod Rehab, Chapel Hill, NC), Kartik Hariharan MBBS (Royal Gwent Hospital, United Kingdom), Rajiv Limaye MBBS (Friarage Hospital Northallerton, United Kingdom) and Resident Scholar John Lewis Jr MD (Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC).

Each day of the conference was comprised of interactive didactic sessions, guided sawbones labs, and surgeries which were transmitted live to the conference attendees, who could ask questions via microphone during the cases. Educational session topics spanned the breadth of current foot and ankle surgery practice, ranging from basic physical exam techniques to advanced concepts in trauma, reconstruction, and sports-related injuries. Examples of live surgical cases, performed at the Santokba Durlabhji Memorial Hospital, included a triple arthrodesis for rigid flatfoot, an ankle arthroscopy with microfracture of a talar osteochondral lesion, open reduction and internal fixation of a comminuted calcaneal fracture, and the third-ever total ankle replacement performed in India. For the first time in history, Dr Parekh used Google Glass technology (which is not yet commercially-available) to broadcast a live video feed of several surgeries which viewers could access online on the course website. After the surgery, the international faculty members were interviewed in a large press conference held by the local media, and the story made the front page of local newspapers the following day.

Jaipur, known as 'The Pink City' of India, was a tremendous venue for the 5th Conference. As the capital and largest city of the northern state of Rajasthan, it is known as a large exporter of gold, diamonds, and gemstones. Due to its impressive architecture and rich cultural history, Jaipur is an extremely popular tourist destination and is part of the Golden Triangle tourist circuit with Delhi and Agra/Taj Mahal. During the conference, the faculty was able to tour the main production and clinic facilities that produce the Jaipur Foot, a durable low-cost prosthesis that is made available free of charge to amputee patients and has gained worldwide notoriety with over 1.3 million recipients to date. We look forward to next year's conference when it moves to Bengaluru.

John S Lewis Jr MD
2014 Parekh Resident Scholar