

“A world-class fellowship in surgical excellence, where cutting-edge techniques meet unparalleled mentorship.”

Derrick Guo – Singapore

My Fellowship Year (July 2023-June 2024) at Santy Orthopaedic Centre, Lyon, France

Embarking on a year-long fellowship at the Santy Orthopaedic Centre in Lyon, France, was a transformative journey in my career as an orthopaedic surgeon. Over the course of this year, I had the extraordinary opportunity to learn from some of the most esteemed surgeons in the field, enhancing my skills and deepening my knowledge in sports medicine, as well as shoulder, hip, and knee surgery.

Santy Orthopaedic Centre is a beacon of excellence in orthopaedic surgery, renowned for being at the forefront of

research and patient care. The centre's commitment to innovation and excellence has established it as a leading global institution, attracting surgeons and fellows from around the world. Founded by Dr. Gilles Walch and Dr. Pierre Chambat, the institution's cultivation of clinical and research excellence permeates throughout the institution.

Under the tutelage of Dr. Lionel Neyton and Dr. Arnaud Godeneche, I delved into the intricate world of shoulder surgery. Their mentorship was invaluable, providing insights into the management of shoulder instability, arthroplasty, and cuff disorders. I witnessed how experience can turn complex procedures like the Latarjet, Eden-Hybinette, Trillat, and complex arthroplasty with significant bone loss into manageable



Dinner with Dr Gilles Walch, Dr Arnaud Walch, Dr Nicolas Bonneville & Dr Jérôme Garret



Visit by Dr Mark Safran and the AOSSM Fellows

procedures with excellent outcomes. A typical week included 12-15 cuff surgeries, 3-5 Latarjet/instability surgeries, and 4-5 arthroplasties.



With Dr Arnaud Godenèche and fellows.

My time with them also introduced me to the latest innovations in shoulder surgery, such as augmented reality surgery and pyrocarbon prostheses. This experience significantly broadened my surgical repertoire and provided new perspectives on managing shoulder pathologies.



With Dr Lionel Neyton and fellows.

Training with Dr. Bertrand Sonnery-Cottet and Dr. Mathieu Thaumat in hip and knee surgery was equally enriching. Their guidance in performing complex knee and hip arthroscopies was instrumental in honing my surgical skills. Dr. Sonnery-Cottet's meticulous approach to knee surgeries and commitment to advancing ACL surgery science were truly inspiring. His comprehensive management of numerous professional athletes at the clinic was eye-opening. I remain in awe of his dynamism, incredible work ethic, and commitment to improving knee/ACL surgeries, which is the driving force behind his high surgical and publication volume. His work on lateral extra-articular procedures with anterolateral ligament reconstruction and RAMP lesions was particularly inspirational. The speed and elegance in which his ligament surgeries were performed was also a remarkable sight.



With Dr Bertrand Sonnery-Cottet and fellows

Dr. Thaumat's approach to hip arthroscopies was enlightening and eye-opening. His clear thought processes and eagerness to teach made hip arthroscopy less intimidating and more approachable. I picked up multiple tips and tricks while operating with him, and his trailblazing work on endoscopic gluteus medius repair and arthroscopic shelf acetabuloplasty was remarkable.

Throughout the fellowship, I participated in multiple complex surgical cases that challenged and enhanced my capabilities. These ranged from revision shoulder arthroplasties with severe deformity and bone loss to multi-ligamentous injuries in professional athletes and severe knee deformity corrections. Participating in these surgeries under the supervision of my mentors was a profound learning experience.

Living in Lyon for a year not only advanced my professional skills but also enriched my personal life. Immersing myself in French culture, learning the language, and exploring the vibrant city of Lyon added a unique dimension to my fellowship. The experience fostered holistic growth, blending medical excellence with cultural enrichment.

This fellowship has profoundly influenced my career aspirations. I am eager to implement the advanced techniques and knowledge gained at Santy Orthopaedic Centre in my practice. The professional relationships and networks established during this year will continue to be a source of support and collaboration in my ongoing career.

Reflecting on my year at Santy Orthopaedic Centre, I am filled with gratitude and optimism. The mentorship of Dr. Neyton, Dr. Godeneche, Dr. Sonnery-Cottet, and Dr. Thaunat has equipped me with invaluable skills and knowledge that will shape my future as an orthopaedic surgeon. This fellowship has been a pivotal chapter in my professional journey, and I am excited to build upon this experience in the years to come. More importantly, the professional network and friendships that I have made with them and others on this journey will be something I cherish forever.

Merci beaucoup Dr Godeneche, Dr Neyton, Dr Sonnery-Cottet and Dr Thaunat!

Merci beaucoup Santy et à bientôt!



With Dr Mathieu Thaunat



France vs Germany in the OL Stadium, Lyon



Dinner with travelling fellows from the rest of Europe