

European Rhinologic Society Fellowship Report
Course: Ghent Dissection Course on Endoscopic Sinus Surgery
Dates: 11–13 September 2024
Location: Ghent, Belgium

I had the honour of attending the Ghent FESS Course, held from 11–13 September 2024, as a recipient of the European Rhinologic Society (ERS) Fellowship. This intensive three-day hands-on course was designed to provide advanced training in endoscopic sinus surgery techniques, with a combination of cadaveric dissection, live lectures, and interactive case discussions. The course featured a distinguished international faculty, with world-renowned rhinologists offering their expertise, including Professor Richard Harvey, whose approach and techniques I found particularly inspiring and applicable to my practice.

The primary aim of the course was to enhance participants' understanding of sinus and skull base anatomy and improve their technical skills in advanced endoscopic sinus surgery. Throughout the course, we progressed from basic anatomical orientation to complex procedures, including frontal recess surgery, Draf procedures, and management of the skull base and orbit.

Daily cadaveric dissection sessions formed the core of the course, complemented by high-quality lectures on surgical strategy, anatomical variations, and complication management. I developed greater precision in handling delicate structures, improved my understanding of frontal sinus drainage pathways, and practiced step-by-step techniques for extended approaches. Learning directly from experts, I refined my anatomical orientation and endoscopic skills in a way that is difficult to achieve outside of such a setting.

This fellowship significantly deepened my theoretical and practical knowledge of rhinologic surgery. I acquired advanced techniques for dealing with complex cases, many of which are directly transferable to my clinical practice in my home country. Importantly, I also learned tips on preoperative planning and intraoperative decision-making that will enhance patient outcomes.

One of the main challenges was the intensive pace of the course, which required rapid adaptation to new techniques and surgical approaches. However, the structured format and support from faculty helped overcome initial difficulties and allowed for significant progress within the limited timeframe.

This experience has strengthened my ambition to pursue subspecialisation in rhinology and endoscopic skull base surgery. I plan to integrate the advanced techniques learned into my daily practice and to share these insights with colleagues through local workshops and training sessions. In the long term, I aim to contribute to the development of rhinology in my region by promoting high-quality, evidence-based surgical care.

I am deeply grateful to the European Rhinologic Society for this opportunity, which has had a lasting impact on my professional development.

Sincerely,
Anda Gâta