

EUROSPINE TFR Course 2014

Alumnus Trip Report

After 2012 and 2013, the TFR Course 2014 was the third course on spine research methodology. The 15 attendees from 8 countries were given an overview of the methodology used to conduct clinical research. Again, the format was a mix between lectures and working in small groups of 3-4 participants, which was much appreciated.

Quick Facts:

Event: TFR Course 2014

Location: Dublin, Ireland

Date: February 2014

Participants: 15

When I read that EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe, was organising a Task Force Research (TFR) Course in Dublin in February 2014, I motivated two young co-workers to have a look at the programme and to register for the course. Even though I did attend the very first TFR Course in Istanbul in 2012, I liked the idea to accompany my colleagues to Ireland, meet some of the fabulous faculty again and explore a city I've never been to before. After I arrived at the very stylish and modern airport, I took a taxi for the short ride to the hotel, and within the first minutes of the trip the friendly, talkative and likable taxi-driver gave me a foretaste of what was to come in the next few days. "The Morrison" was also the venue of the course and is a markedly well designed hotel, very conveniently located in the centre of Dublin, just beside the river and surrounded by pedestrian zones, shops and - of course - Irish pubs.

When I arrived at the lobby, I heard that the welcome reception was just about to begin, so I strolled to the hotel bar where I met one of my colleagues and was recognised by the organisers of the course and some of the faculty members. The evening ended with some very nice conversations in a pleasant atmosphere and my colleagues' positive comments about the topics of the first day.

The next morning and subsequent days went by with sightseeing and shopping, and when the last evening approached, I was asked if I wanted to join the group for the farewell-dinner, as one of the participants had to cancel his attendance. The dinner was wittily organised at a greyhound-race and the exciting atmosphere was very much appreciated by everyone I spoke with during that evening.

Before we headed back to the hotel, a small group of faculty members and course attendees gathered together at an applied research tutorial and conducted a randomised controlled trial comparing different types of Irish whiskies - just to make sure that everything that was learned during the last few very interesting but also intensive and hard working days was understood correctly.

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