

USANZ Trainee Week 2025 Report

I was absolutely delighted to have been selected by BSoT, BAUS and TUF to attend the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand (USANZ) Trainee Week in Sydney in November 2025. I would like to sincerely thank my funders (the British Section of Trainees, The Urology Foundation, and BAUS), as well as USANZ for hosting me, including Convenor Dr Scott Leslie and very patient organisers Jenny Hislop and Deborah Klein. All the USANZ trainees were extremely welcoming, both in explaining how to organise a fellowship in Australia and New Zealand, but also keen to find out more information regarding how to arrange a UK fellowship.

Trainee Week 2025 started off with mock vivas and I had the opportunity to observe how USANZ intermediate and senior trainees respond to exam questions. This was a real highlight, and I learnt a lot by listening to feedback from the examiners. It was interesting to reflect on similarities and differences between USANZ vivas and those in the UK FRCS exam. The week then continued with a series of interactive lectures and workshops, delivered both by senior trainees and leading experts in the field. I was particularly interested in the lectures delivered by medical and radiation oncologists on a variety of urological cancers, given that as urologists we generally have less opportunity to attend teaching delivered by these specialties. We also had a really useful session on breaking bad news with an actor and a lively debate on the 'best' way to deliver bad news to patients.

The networking opportunity was a real highlight of USANZ Trainee Week 2025. We attended networking drinks, dinner al fresco on Sydney harbour and the gala dinner. I bonded with USANZ trainees by participating in the Masters of the Uroverse Quiz – which consisted of answering urology (and non-urology) multiple choice questions while wearing urology themed fancy dress (often inspired by male genitalia). Congratulations to Team New Zealand who won the quiz for the first time since the competition began in 2014! It was also great to get to know the other international delegates from the Urological Association of Asia, Canadian Urological Association and European Association of Urology. Dr Cecilia de Klerk delivered a presentation on emergency operative management of urological trauma in South Africa, leaving all of us speechless by their experience in open trauma nephrectomies. I also found out about the European equivalent of the USANZ Trainee Week, which I look forward to attending in future.

The USANZ Trainee week even included two free afternoons to allow us to explore the area. This was my first time visiting Australia. I was completely blown away by Sydney as a vibrant city (with excellent food) and the beautiful beaches. I really look forward to visiting again soon and I'd like to thank everyone once again for this stellar opportunity. Would highly recommend attending.



A photo with Dr Scott Leslie, Convenor, Dr Christian Robinson, USANZ Trainee Rep, and Dr Rory Ferguson, the other BSoT international delegate.

