

11 January 2015

Re: 2014 University of Toronto Allergan Breast Fellowship

I completed the University of Toronto Allergan Breast Fellowship Mount Sinai Hospital with Drs. Zhong, Hofer, and O'Neill. I had a very positive fellowship experience. The two 6-month blocks provided the opportunity to observe and participate in different models of care for all facets of breast reconstruction.

The first 6 months focused on alloplastic reconstruction, including direct-to-implant reconstruction. There was also a strong emphasis on day procedures, or patient stays under 24 hours. I participated in the operating room as well as the ambulatory clinics. I also had the opportunity to work with Dr. Brown on private cases, with a strong focus on aesthetic breast surgery. This experience provided a good balance and enhanced my understanding of breast reconstruction.

The second 6 months focused on microsurgery, while also providing further experience in alloplastic breast reconstruction. Here I was able to help manage patients being treated in the ongoing randomized clinical trial on the use of AlloDerm for direct-to-implant reconstruction. Free flap breast reconstruction cases included free muscle sparing TRAMs, DIEPs, TUG flaps and SGAP flaps. I also saw general reconstructive cases, such as for sarcomas, treated both with free flaps and local or regional flaps.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to have completed the Allergan Breast Fellowship. There was a high volume of diverse breast reconstruction cases, other international fellows, and the benefit of being in a busy academic centre with frequent rounds, journal clubs, and symposiums.