

ESVS

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Cleveland July 9th, 2009

Interim Report on Marco Polo Scholarship

I started my research fellowship in the Vascular Surgery Department of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation on January 12th, 2009.

During this first 6 months I had the opportunity to participate actively in the didactic programs that were ongoing in the department:

- A didactic lecture is given by an attending staff member each week. This conference covers medical and surgical topics related to vascular disease and includes related basic science topics;
- A Vascular Surgery Teaching Conference is held each Thursday. This is a multidisciplinary endovascular/cardiology/neurosurgery conference that provides review and discussion of the endovascular management of patients with peripheral vascular disease
- A weekly quality management/case management conference is held on Wednesday morning. It covers morbidity/mortality and quality issues on the surgical and interventional services. The fellows present selected cases for discussion
- On the third Wednesday of each month, a Journal Club is held. Each of the vascular surgery fellows, as well as the chief general surgery resident, is responsible for reporting on an assigned vascular paper from the current literature. The staff members of the department also participate in Journal Club.
- Twice per month, an aortic conference is organized by Dr Lars Svensson. These conferences offer an incomparable opportunity to have a direct interaction with some of the World's most distinguished cardiovascular Surgeons studying the latest topics related to the treatment of the Aortic pathology.

At the same time, under direct supervision of Dr. Roy Greenberg, Dr. Tara Mastracci, and Dr. Matthew Eagleton, I had the opportunity to follow the daily clinical activities pertaining to patient care: out patient clinic visits, planning of fenestrated and branched Aortic grafts and post-surgical follow up

In this regard I have had the opportunity to use and compare different dedicated diagnostic software to review of 2D, 3D, and 4D images for managing every DICOM study (Aquarius WS, Aquarius Intuition, Terarecon Inc.: Leonardo WS, Siemens).

There is also Diagnostic Core Lab center which I have learned to utilize frequently to interrogate patient imaging. I have been very interested in the care and the attention dedicated to the follow up protocols for the patients after their procedures and to learn about the newest technique to find early predictors of material fatigue that affect the endovascular device.

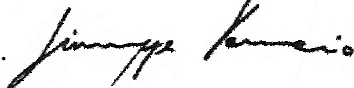
I'm also member of a dedicated research team for Aortic pathology, guided by Dr. Roy Greenberg, that includes: Dr. Tara Mastracci, and Dr. Matthew Eagleton, 5 research nurses, 3 other international research fellow, and 5 material bio-engineers.

In my opinion this organization is the best example of a multidisciplinary team for the scientific study of Aortic Pathology.

As part of this team, I'm conducting 2 studies related to endovascular Management of aortic aneurysms.

I am very happy to have had this magnificent educational opportunity, and am very grateful to the European Society of Vascular Surgery for supporting me in this unique educational experience.

Yours sincerely,

Giuseppe Panuccio, M.D. 

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