

Short Report

regarding a 2017 ESVS educational travel grant awarded to Dr. A. Busch, Department of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Klinikum rechts der Isar, Technical University Munich;

The purpose of this grant application was to visit the Vascular Surgery Department at Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden.

Already from 2015 to 2016 I had the chance to spend 18 months at the Center for Molecular Medicine at Karolinska Institute (KI) in the laboratory of Professor L. Maegdefessel. During this time I've been introduced to the vascular surgeons from Karolinska Hospital. Professor Joy Roy and Professor Rebecka Hultgren have previously published with high impact and combining the Karolinska and the Munich biobank, we have started a variety of joint research project.

Therefore, during 2017 and 2018 I visited KI four times to follow up on these projects and moreover get to know The New Karolinska (Nya Karolinska), the 2018 inaugurated brand new hospital site. End of 2018 we have two joint publications ready for submission, both on the subject of abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA). Moreover, together with other partners we have founded the histAAA consortium, a collaboration platform for biobanks to study the diversity of patient individual AAA in a huge cohort. Additionally, I had to chance to provide help with one of my standard mouse models, the elastase perfusion model, for two local cooperation partners, with one manuscript published (Centa et al., Circulation 2019) and one more to come.

Apart from the research projects, all four visits helped to diversify my personal knowledge and learn from different specialists and their personal approach on how to deal with different vascular diseases and procedures. Furthermore, in 2018 I successfully passed the board examination by the UEMS (FEBVS) and in 2019 I acquired the German national board certification. I very much hope to being able to continue both, my basic research collaborations and the personal exchange with vascular surgeons from Sweden, who, even more than Germans, have a unique evidence based approach and are not afraid to generate evidence in multicenter studies when a lack has been identified.

I am very grateful to the ESVS for supporting my efforts and enabling this chance for international travel grants.