

Educational Travel Grant

1.10- 31.11.2017

Gefäßchirurgie, St. Franziskus Hospital, Münster, Germany

Prof. Frank Veith had once disclosed, and Ass. Prof. Konstantinos Donas cited later that following Darwin's theory, the Vascular Surgeon may evolve or extinguish. Endovascular treatment, being less invasive and having better initial outcomes, is gaining ever-greater acceptance among specialists. Therefore, acquiring advanced endovascular skills must be a paramount condition for every vascular surgery trainee around the world.

I am a final-year Vascular Surgery and Angiology trainee at the Fundación Jiménez Díaz University Hospital in Madrid, tutored by Dr. Alejandro González and coordinated by Ass. Prof. Dr. César Aparicio, chief of department. Thanks to the ESVS travel grant, I had the opportunity to visit one of the most advanced vascular and endovascular centres lead by Univ.-Prof. Dr. med. Giovanni Torsello.

My two months Observership at the St. Franziskus Hospital in Münster were a remarkable experience. Prof. Torsello is an illustrious specialist and lecturer, renowned by his pioneering in the endovascular techniques and extensive scientific work and presence. His team holds some of the most referent vascular surgeons. The vascular surgery department at St. Franziskus Hospital accounting with two hybrid rooms, three operating theatres per day, the latest endovascular devices, a dedicated nursery team and numerous on-going studies and patient registries, met much more than all my expectations. There, I was exposed to complex endovascular aorta and peripheral artery disease (PAD) management. I enhanced my knowledge on:

- Measurement, sizing, device selection and characteristics.
- Protocol steps in endovascular procedures.
- Importance of dedicated medical and nursery team.
- Postoperative management and follow-up after complex aortic and PAD cases.
- Dealing with certain endovascular complications.

I had the chance to work, discuss and learn on numerous complex BEVAR and FEVAR cases with Ass. Prof. Dr. Martin Austermann. I enjoyed the surgical and theoretical teaching qualities in theatre and in several workshops, like the Chimney workshop, lead by Ass. Prof. Konstantinos Donas. I also had the opportunity to commence several scientific projects and a Chimney in-vitro study with him bearing ample future perspective. Furthermore, I gathered notable insights from Dr. Arne Schwindt and Ass. Prof. Theodosios Bisdas, experts in peripheral artery disease.

For all this, I wanted to thank Prof. Torsello and his team for the knowledge and skills obtained at St. Franziskus hospital, contributing to my development as a vascular surgery specialist and also, for receiving and teaching visiting doctors from all over the world expanding the expert education in our field. I also wanted to thank Ass. Prof. Donas for his guidance and expertise reinforcing my scientific

spirit and giving me the chance to continue research collaboration on several appealing topics with him.

Thanks to the ESVS Educational travel grant, I broadened my knowledge and abilities. Visiting a different centre and working with experts on the field not only enriched my experience, but also prepared me better for the on-going changes Endovascular Era we live in. This program represents a great opportunity for residents and fellows to learn and also, take home and apply the acquired knowledge for future well- trained and highly skilled vascular surgical specialists.

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