

ESVS Educational Travel Grant Report

My name is Łukasz Woda and I am a vascular surgeon in training at the Department of Vascular Surgery and Angiology, University Hospital no. 1 in Bydgoszcz, Poland. Aortic aneurysms became one of my main interests in an early stage of vascular surgical training. I had a great opportunity to be a part of a team that led the first Polish screening program for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) in the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Province and recently I've become a local coordinator of the national screening program for AAA in Poland.

Treatment of Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysm (TAAA) remains complex and technically demanding. Open TAAA repair involves reconstruction of visceral branches while replacing the thoracoabdominal aorta with an artificial graft. This is an extensive and complicated surgery, followed by the long recovery period. In the last two decades, we observe a great shift to aortic endovascular repair, due to its benefits (avoidance of open surgery, reduction of length of intensive care unit stay and mortality). This shift would not be possible without the hard work of persistent clinicians and inventors such as Prof. Stéphane Haulon.

The ESVS education travel grant allowed me to visit the Aortic Centre at Hôpital Marie Lannelongue, Paris, France, led by Prof. Stéphane Haulon. During my stay (2 weeks) I attended to endovascular and open procedures. I particularly appreciate the opportunity of investigating the whole process of treatment aortic aneurysms, including planning bifurcated aorto-iliac, branched and fenestrated grafts, and their meticulous deployments. I was able to observe open vascular procedures, including carotid endarterectomy, femoro-popliteal by-pass grafting, and transposition of a left subclavian artery.

I would like to thank Prof. Stéphane Haulon, Prof. Dominique Fabre, and the team as well as the European Society for Vascular Surgery for providing me with this great opportunity to learn directly from one of the world's leading experts.

Should you have any questions or require any further information about my stay, please do not hesitate to contact me at: lukasz.woda@wp.pl.

Łukasz Woda MD, PhD