

Report on the ESDO 2014 trainee fellowship at the Gastroenterology and Digestive Oncology Department of Erasme Hospital, Université Libre de Bruxelles

Dear Professor Jean-Luc Van Laethem and ESDO Governing Board Members,

I have completed my ESDO sponsored fellowship training in the Gastroenterology Department of Erasme Hospital in Brussels, Belgium between June 15 to 28, 2014. I am writing this report to document my experiences and clinical activities during my stay in Erasme Hospital.

As I am practicing gastroenterology in a tertiary referral hospital in Turkey, serving to a population with a very high incidence of oesophageal and gastric cancers at a young age, my primary motivation to apply for this fellowship grant was to experience management of patients with GI cancer from gastroenterologists' perspective, in a highly specialized centre as Erasme Hospital. I hoped to have the opportunity for observing advanced endoscopic procedures including ESD/EMR and palliative endoscopic procedures. Because I am mostly involved in screening, diagnosis and endoscopic treatment of gastrointestinal cancers, I intended to focus on advanced endoscopy and to spend my time in the Endoscopy Unit of Department of Gastroenterology.

In my first day in Erasme Hospital, Prof. Van Laethem and Mrs. Matthys warmly welcomed and helped me to plan my 2 weeks in the Unit. With the help of Prof. Van Laethem, we reviewed the details about my specialization, clinical experience and expectations on the fellowship training and decided the program of my stay.

In the first week of my stay, I experienced a vast number of advanced endoscopic procedures under the supervision and precious teaching of Prof. Jacques Deviere and other mentors. Various endoscopic procedures included management of a large spectrum of disorders including but not limited to GI and hepatobiliary cancers. I had the opportunity of attending many interventional radiology procedures which were also performed by gastroenterologists.

On the second week, I had a great chance to attend the 32nd GEEW (Gastroenterology and Endotherapy European Workshop) which is the oldest and the best among its kind of workshops. In this 3 days marathon I followed and experienced an enormous number of difficult cases and expert solutions to tough situations. Discussions among the faculty and the audience were very useful.

I want to express my sincerest thanks to ESDO Governing Board for this great opportunity to improve my skills as a young gastroenterologist. It was so great to spend 2 weeks in Erasme Hospital and gaining so much experience. I benefited every minute of my stay. Every patient gave me the chance to see an interesting clinical situation and an expert solution. Sometimes we encountered complications which are a natural part of our practice and it was invaluable to experience the solutions provided by our faculty. The organization of the Department was also fascinating which gave me further insight. Clinical discussions and exchange of ideas between fellows and the faculty was rewarding. Also, I want to give my special thanks to Prof JL Van Laethem, Prof. J Deviere and all my colleagues in the Gastroenterology Department for their kindness and patience to answer our endless questions.

Yours sincerely,

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