

## ESDO TRAINEE FELLOWSHIP REPORT 2017



Name of Fellow: **Aristotelis Kechagias**  
Country of Origin: **Greece / Tampere University Hospital Finland**  
Fellowship Institute: **Rudolfstiftung Hospital Vienna, Austria**  
Fellowship Host: **Professor Thomas Gruenberger**  
Date of Fellowship: **May 8 – 29, 2017**

### Report:

Inter-exchange of surgeons between institutions of different countries is an important step towards improvement of surgical knowledge and understanding. Thanks to the ESDO initiative, and acceptance of my application, I had the unique opportunity to attend as a fellow-surgeon the Department of Surgery, Rudolfstiftung Hospital, Vienna, Austria, under Professor Thomas Gruenberger, for two weeks.

The Department is a centre of excellence specialized in surgical oncology of the gastrointestinal tract, also involved in leading research particularly in the field of surgical oncology of the liver. During the two weeks, I participated in HBP operations, as well as in other procedures concerning the GI-tract. I visited patients and went through numerous radiological-scans with the Professor and his team. Moreover I attended the tumour-board which dealt with demanding cases of liver, pancreas, and colorectal cancer. During the above activities I had the great opportunity to discuss at high level various topics and receive knowledge regarding up-to-date evidence and expert-opinion in the abovementioned fields. I would like to emphasize the personal approach, ethics, and care of the Professor to the patient, which is also an important parameter of the mentoring process. Attending him was a great benefit to me. Furthermore, it was fruitful to discuss with the younger doctors of the Department and exchange opinions concerning surgery, education, and health systems. All the staff of Rudolfstiftung Hospital was very friendly and helpful. Finally, the cultural and full-of-life city of Vienna concluded the great experience of this fellowship.

Overall, the fellowship fulfilled at the best my expectations. The experience and benefit that I gained from this fellowship is of great value, and it will assist me decisively in my further clinical and academic progress.

I thank ESDO, Professor Gruenberger, and the surgeons and staff of Rudolfstiftung Hospital for this unique fellowship.

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