

## ESDO TRAINEE FELLOWSHIP REPORT 2018



Name of Fellow: **Andrei-Ionut Gavrilă**  
Country of Origin: **Romania**  
Fellowship Institute: **Erasmus University Hospital in Brussels, Belgium**  
Fellowship Host: **Professor Jean-Luc Van Laethem**  
Date of Fellowship: **July 4 – 17, 2018**

### Report:

I am a fellow in training in my 4th and last year in the field of Gastroenterology in Bucharest, and I am the proud winner of one of the five scholarships given by ESDO in the Trainee Fellowships 2018 program. Thanks to ESDO, I was able to visit Erasmus University Hospital in Brussels, Belgium for the period of two weeks.

First of all, I want to thank the whole staff of the Gastroenterology department from Erasmus University Hospital, the nurses, the fellows in training, especially Dr. Ana-Maria Bucalau, and of course the doctors who did their best to show me how things are done in their hospital, and I would like to mention Prof. Jacques Devière, Prof. Arnaud Lemmers, Dr. Vincent Huberty and Dr. Daniel Blero.

I would like to give a very special "Thank you!" to Prof. Jean-Luc van Laethem who was my coordinating professor for this fellowship program. In my country gastroenterology and oncology are two distinct departments who unfortunately rarely collaborate directly, but under the guidance of Prof. J-L van Laethem I learned the importance of the multidisciplinary approach to the oncologic patient.

During my stay, I visited the Digestive Oncology ward and saw how the severe cases were managed, the Endoscopy unit, where I was able to see a vast example of both curative (ex: polypectomy, endoscopic mucosal resection, endoscopic submucosal dissection) and palliative procedures (ex: stent placement, balloon dilation), but also many diagnostic procedures (ex: ecoendoscopy), and I was able to accompany Prof. J-L van Laethem during his consultation program and see the importance of the interaction between doctor, oncologic patient and patient's family and also how chemotherapy was performed in an outpatient situation. Regarding multidisciplinary approach to the oncologic patient, I was able to take part in the Tumor Board meetings, where oncologic gastroenterologists, endoscopists, surgeons and pathologists discussed all the oncologic cases and decided the best course of action.

I must admit that it was also a very nice experience from a cultural point of view, as I managed to visit the beautiful city of Brussels and almost all of its famous landscapes.

In conclusion, I would like to again thank Prof. J-L van Laethem for the guidance and ESDO for the logistic and financial support and I promise you that I will do my best to share my experience with my colleagues and most important with the head of my hospital, so that some changes could be made, especially the foundation of a separate department of Digestive Oncology that will act as a bridge between our Gastroenterology unit and the Oncology unit and also organize similar Tumor Board meetings, as I am now convinced that the multidisciplinary approach to the oncologic patient is key to obtain the best outcome.