

## ESDO TRAINEE FELLOWSHIP REPORT 2018



Name of Fellow: **Michela Guardascione**  
Country of Origin: **Italy**  
Fellowship Institute: **Digestive Oncology Unit of Gasthuisberg Hospital  
in Leuven, Belgium**  
Fellowship Host: **Professor Eric Van Cutsem**  
Date of Fellowship: **October 1 – 12, 2018**

### Report:

During the two weeks' fellowship at Digestive Oncology Unit in Gasthuisberg Hospital, Leuven I have been working as a Medical Oncologist, mostly as an observer, following Professor Van Cutsem and his team. I had the chance to see patients with a wide range of gastro-intestinal and hepatobiliary tumors, including more rare tumor types like neuroendocrine tumors and stromal gastrointestinal tumors. I followed colleagues in their activity in the clinics, with patients in follow-up and in first evaluation as well. I also spent some additional time in the day care with patients who were on active treatments. Many of those patients were on clinical trials and I had the opportunity to deal with several phase II and III clinical trials with very innovative molecules. Furthermore I spent few time in the ward where I saw the management of in-patients with different clinical scenarios. I found very interesting to attend multidisciplinary meetings where all cases were extensively discussed from different points of view and a clinical decision was made.

Over the two weeks that I spent in Leuven I also had the chance to attend a very intriguing meeting on immunotherapy in GI tumors that took place in Marseille and that was a great opportunity to be in an international environment and to attend high level sessions about new molecules in colorectal and GI non-colorectal disease. Also, Professor Van Cutsem gave to me the opportunity to follow an interesting interview on colorectal cancer in Bruxelles, where he made an overview about the therapeutic strategies mostly in the metastatic but also in the adjuvant setting and discussed on hot topics in colorectal cancer such as the role of sidedness (left vs right tumors), the different behaviour of V600E and non-V600E BRAF mutant cancers and the most recent results of immunotherapeutic drugs.

In conclusion, the short fellowship I had in Leuven was an amazing opportunity and I will surely take into account experience gained working with Professor Van Cutsem and all his colleagues.