

ESDO TRAINEE FELLOWSHIP REPORT 2018



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Country of Origin: United Kingdom
Fellowship Institute: University Hospital Ulm
Fellowship Host: **Professor Thomas Seufferlein**
Date of Fellowship: 22 October – 2 November 2018

Report:

Dear Governing Board Members,

I have returned from my ESDO sponsored fellowship in the Digestive Oncology Department at Universitätsklinikum Ulm, where I was graciously hosted by Professor Seufferlein.

I commenced my fellowship with a tour of the department. I saw the outpatient clinics at the Comprehensive Cancer Centre, the inpatient ward, the endoscopy department and the laboratories where some of the extensive molecular research is undertaken.

My first day was spent in the Medizinisch-Onkologische Tagesklinik (MOT) where we reviewed the patients attending for chemotherapy and managed their side effects. I spent the afternoon attending radiology meetings, analysing patient scans and assisting with the preparation of patient records for the Tumour Board meeting – a large multidisciplinary meeting to review and plan patients therapy. I was expertly guided through this process by Dr Angelika Kestler. Here, I was fascinated by the number of clinical trials available to recruit patients to and the options available for treatment.

I spent some of my subsequent days under the expert guidance of Professor Martin Wagner who demonstrated a number of advanced endoscopic techniques, including large polyp EMR's, ampullectomy, EUS, ERCP, as well as percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography (PTC), faecal transplantation and much more.

I am also indebted to other members of the endoscopy team, including Professor Kleger who demonstrated ERCP, Dr Eugene Zizer who demonstrated his measurement and management of patients with portal hypertension, including TIPSS.

I had the opportunity to work with Dr Benjamin Walter and Dr Martin Müller and travel to the neurology hospital to perform PEG placements on patients with complex neuromuscular disease. I also was able to gain huge insight into management of gastrointestinal bleeds, including clip placement and use of the over the scope clip.

The department had an array of educational activity, to further the fusion between basic science and clinical digestive oncology including a mesmerising talk from Professor Butin-Israeli from Chicago on the role of neutrophils in genomic instability and chromatin modelling.



I spent much of my second week with Professor Wagner in managing complicated cases such as portal atresia with variceal bleeding, as well as management of early gastric cancers. I also saw a number of palliative procedures including stenting (oesophageal, duodenal, biliary).

Later, I had the opportunity to work closely with Dr Thomas Etrich and understand the clinical and molecular reasons behind chemotherapy selection of patients attending the MOT as well as planning clinical trial participation for those with increasing cancer burden.

It was also great to discuss these experiences with Professor Seufferlein over dinner and compare and contrast practices from

There were a number of learning points from my trip which I would like to use in my own career as I move forward.

- I was fascinated and enthused by the hard working and dedicated approach of the whole department to ensuring optimal patient care
- I thoroughly enjoyed the multidisciplinary approach to patient management and close working relationship between gastroenterologists, surgeons, pathologists, and radiologists.
- The ease with which clinical trial work was integrated into the department to allow treatment options for those with incurable disease was a real insight into how an academic department can function
- The technical skill and knowledge of the endoscopists was remarkable to observe and learn from
- The mix of basic science with clinical gastroenterology was inspiring

I am indebted to everyone in the department for their generosity to share their knowledge and experience with me, but especially Professor Wagner and Dr Kestler.

I shall reflect fondly on my experience in Ulm and would like in particular to once again thank Professor Seufferlein for his attentive care to ensure that I had maximal exposure to all aspects of gastroenterology and digestive oncology. I leave with many friends and future collaborators.

ESDO board, I submit this report to you with the highest levels of appreciation to all of the staff at the Digestive Oncology Department at Universitätsklinikum Ulm and want to thank you for offering me this wonderful and eye opening experience which has left me feeling enriched as a result.