

ESDO TRAINEE FELLOWSHIP REPORT 2018



Name of Fellow: **Edvina Pirvu**
Country of Origin: **Romania / Coltea Clinical Hospital, Bucharest**
Fellowship Institute: **IMAD & CHU Nantes, France**
Fellowship Host: **Professor Tamara Matysiak-Budnik**
Date of Fellowship: **September 3 - 14, 2018**
Learning objectives: **Diagnostics and treatment of patients with cancers of the digestive tract**

Report:

During my two weeks fellowship at CHU Nantes I had a fantastic learning experience and a full immersion in the day to day work of the Hepathogastroenterology Department, thanks to the help and excellent schedule organized by Prof. Matysiak-Budnik, who was always available for my questions.

Assisting to consultations of gastro-oncology with Prof. Matysiak-Budnik, Prof. Bennouna, Dr. Touchefeu and Dr. Pecout allowed me to observe the way they apply up-to-date protocols regarding diagnosis, treatment and follow up of the oncologic patient every day, for every patient. Beside upgrading my medical knowledge, this was also an opportunity to improve my skills related to efficient patient-physician communication.

Attending consultations before each chemotherapy cycle with my fellow interns and interacting with the nurses helped me understand the work flow in Outpatient Clinic and allowed me to see side effects of medicines that are not yet available in my country.

I also attended the Gastro-Intestinal Oncologic multidisciplinary meetings every week. These were held jointly with surgery, medical-oncology, gastroenterology, radiology, radiotherapy and pathology staff. All new gastro-oncology cases were presented and discussed to select the best treatment options from the available standard treatments approved, but also from a variety of clinical studies that are currently ongoing in the hospital, this way being able to offer the patient the best treatment available worldwide.

Participating to consultations of oncogenetics with Dr Cauchin and attending the regional oncogenetics meeting helped me learn about this emerging branch of genetics that can guide us adopt selective screening strategies for our patients and their relatives.

CHU has also an outstanding Department of Interventional Radiology, where, with the accord of Prof. Frampas, I was able to observe and better understand cutting-edge procedures and techniques like transhepatic liver biopsy, percutaneous radiofrequency ablation and radioembolisation with Yttrium-90 microspheres.

In summary, this fellowship proved to be very fruitful and allowed me to evaluate the different patterns of care compared to the Romanian ones offered to patients with gastrointestinal tumours. I am very thankful for this opportunity and I will try to improve the care I offer to my patients according to the high standards I was able to observe in France.

I want to address sincere thanks to Professor Matysiak-Budnik, who acted as a great mentor and host and the entire team at CHU Nantes for their time and effort. I also want to thank ESDO for awarding me this fellowship and making this experience possible.