

ESDO TRAINEE FELLOWSHIP REPORT 2019



Name of Fellow: Amina Jalovcic Suljevic
Country of Origin: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Fellowship Institute: Digestive Oncology Unit of Gasthuisberg Hospital Leuven, Belgium
Fellowship Host: **Professor Eric Van Cutsem**
Date of Fellowship: January 19 – 31, 2020.

Report:

During the two weeks of fellowship at Digestive Oncology Unit in Gasthuisberg Hospital, Leuven I've been working mostly as an observer following Professor Van Cutsem and his team. I am a Medical Oncologist, so this was a great experience in the diagnostic of digestive malignancies, too. I had the chance to see diagnostic and treatments of GI patients.

The most interesting thing for me were tumor board meetings. There were three tumor board meetings weekly: colo-rectal, hepato-biliary and oesophageal. In these meetings, every patient was discussed carefully and with extensive involvement of Radiologists, GI oncologists and surgeons. I was impressed, that just because of me, the meetings were held in English.

I found it very interesting to follow my colleagues in outpatient clinic. On this occasion I could see follow-ups of patients with GI cancers (rare cancers types like neuroendocrine tumors and stromal gastrointestinal tumors, too). I was impressed with the number of patients coming into this clinic, from all over the world, just for a second opinion.

I got to see the management of patients in daily clinic, patients included in different trials, ward patients etc.

Professor Van Cutsem and his staff organised for me a one day visit in the Clinic of Radiotherapy, so I could observe this part of treatment in GI oncology.

In conclusion, the two weeks fellowship I had in Leuven was an amazing opportunity to learn something new, to meet smart, hardworking and innovative people, to see diagnostic and treatment of patients with GI tumors, and to attend tumor board meetings.