

ESDO TRAINEE FELLOWSHIP REPORT 2019



Name of Fellow: Carolina Simões
Country of Origin: Portugal
Fellowship Institute: University Hospital Ulm
Fellowship Host: **Professor Thomas Seufferlein**
Date of Fellowship: April 1-30, 2019

Report:

I am a fourth-year resident in Gastroenterology and I applied for this fellowship because digestive oncology is one of my main areas of interest. Unlike Portugal, where Oncologists follow patients with digestive malignant diseases, in Germany, these patients are managed by gastroenterologists. Therefore, this fellowship allowed me to acquire a lot of knowledge regarding digestive oncology.

I was received by Professor Thomas Seufferlein, medical director of the Clinic for Internal Medicine I, who guided me to the several units of the Department. During my four-week fellowship, I followed colleagues in their daily activities, mainly in the outpatient clinics at the Comprehensive Cancer Centre, in the endoscopy unit, in the ultrasound unit and in multidisciplinary meetings.

My first week was spent in the outpatient clinic at the Comprehensive Cancer Centre where patients with digestive cancers were followed during chemotherapy, but also to evaluate response to therapeutics, manage side effects, complications and prognosis.

I spent the next 3 weeks in the Endoscopy unit under the expert guidance of Professor Martin Wagner. During this time I could observe a significant number of advanced endoscopic techniques, such as EMR, ESD, ampullectomy, diagnostic and therapeutic EUS, abdominal ultrasound, ERCP, faecal transplantation, PEG placements, measure of portal hypertension and transjugular liver biopsy. I also had the opportunity to watch routine ultrasound exams with interventional radiology procedures in the Ultrasound Unit.

Weekly I participated in the Tumour Board meeting which was attended by gastroenterologists, general surgeons, radiologists, radiotherapists, and pathologists; the main goal was to discuss the best approach/management and therapeutic options for patients with digestive cancer.

During the fellowship, I also had the opportunity to participate in two papers with Professor Seufferlein, Dr Thomas Ettrich and Dr Lukas Perkhofer.

To conclude, I am very thankful for this opportunity. This fellowship had enriched my professional and personal skills. I would like to express my special thanks to Professor Seufferlein, as well to Professor Wagner and Dr Thomas Ettrich, for their kindness and hospitality. I also want to thank ESDO Governing Board for this opportunity to increase my knowledge and practice in digestive cancers.