

ESDO TRAINEE FELLOWSHIP REPORT 2021



Name of Fellow: Filipe Damião
Country of Origin: Portugal
Fellowship Institute: Erasme University Hospital, Brussels, Belgium
Fellowship Host: Professor Jean-Luc Van Laethem
Date of Fellowship: 01 June 2021

Report:

First of all, I would like to show my deepest gratitude to the European Society of Digestive Oncology for the opportunity to experience this fellowship at Erasme University Hospital, Brussels, Belgium. I want also to thank Professor Jean-Luc van Laethem and all of the team in Erasme Hospital, who received me so well and with great kindness since the beginning. They made me really feel I was welcomed.

I am a fifth-year resident in Gastroenterology and I applied for this fellowship because digestive oncology is one of my main areas of interest. It was a great learning opportunity because was able to see a true multidisciplinary team effort in the management of oncology patients. As a Gastroenterologist resident, I was able to be involved in the medical treatment of the patients and also in the interventional procedures needed.

I was warmly welcomed when I arrived by Professor Jean-Luc van Laethem. We did a small tour of the hospital and then I was introduced to the staff. I divided my activities between the Endoscopy Unit, the multidisciplinary reunions and the outpatient clinic. I was able to follow Professor Van Laethem and other staff members in consultation and endoscopy procedures and witnessed a wide variety of GI diseases and GI cancer.

Most of my time was spent in the Endoscopy Unit, with great enthusiasm. I was mainly under the guidance of Professor Jacques Devière, Professor Arnaud Lemmers and Professor Daniel Blero, to whom I would like to deeply thank for the mentoring. I watched many procedures, including management of complex biliary cancers, resection of precancerous conditions, and many others. I saw such complex and high-demanding procedures that, with no doubt, will be of great benefit for my future practice. During my stay, I also got the chance to closely follow the 38th edition of Gastroenterology and Endotherapy European Workshop (GEEW), for which I am truly grateful.

My stay was rewarding both in professional terms but also in social and personal matters. I would strongly recommend the ESDO trainee fellowship for other residents, young gastroenterologists and oncologists willing to extend their knowledge.