

07 April 2014

Athens, Greece

To: ESDO Governing Board Members
President, Professor Eric Van Cutsem
Secretary General, Professor Thomas Seufferlein
Treasurer, Professor Philippe Rougier
Chair of Education Committee, Professor Jean-Luc Van Laethem
Governing Board Member, Professor Wolff Schmiegel
Governing Board Member, Professor Thomas Gruenberger
Governing Board Member, Professor Côme Lepage

Subject: Report on the ESDO 2014 trainee fellowship at the Digestive Oncology Department of the Hôpital Européen Georges Pompidou (HEGP)

Dear ESDO Governing Board Members,

I have concluded my ESDO sponsored fellowship in the Digestive Oncology Department of the Hôpital Européen Georges-Pompidou (HEGP), Paris, France (duration: from 3rd to 23rd March 2014).

I am happy to report to ESDO my experiences and activities during the above-mentioned fellowship.

The program consisted of a well-balanced schedule of assisting in the outpatient clinic visits, participating in the frequent multidisciplinary meetings, educational activities, research meetings, day-hospital, ward rounds and grand rounds.

Notably, in the outpatient clinic visits there was a rotation that included assisting in the general digestive oncology visits as well as specialized ones (focusing on oncogenetics of digestive malignancies, Neuroendocrine Tumors (NETs) of the digestive tract, Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors (GISTs), neoplasias of the biliary tract).

Very importantly I had the opportunity of participating in the frequent multidisciplinary meetings. These included meetings focused on medical, surgical, interventional radiology and nuclear medicine treatments of digestive neoplasias but also on supportive and palliative care, research and continuous medical education. The evaluation and treatment of patients was accomplished by a truly multidisciplinary team consisting of gastroenterologists and surgeons specialized in digestive oncology, medical oncologists, radiologists, interventional radiologists, radiotherapists, nuclear medicine experts, pathologists, psychiatrists, psychologists and nurses, each contributing from their own viewpoint. The

multidisciplinary approach clearly optimized patient care, enriched all team members and fostered research, including investigator-initiated research and education.

Attending the busy day hospital, ward rounds and grand rounds showcased the application and results of the multidisciplinary approach in patient care, as well as real life medicine problem solving. I consider noteworthy the role of the nurses in the day hospital as they contacted the patient the day before scheduled chemotherapy in order to evaluate the patients' condition with focus on chemotherapy side effects. Nurses collaborated with gastroenterologists specialized in digestive oncology in order to manage treatment as necessary.

I had also the chance of attending interventional radiology procedures and endoscopy at the endoscopy unit that further complemented my experiences in HEGP.

I was very kindly invited by Professor Philippe Rougier to the Journées Francophones d'Hépatogastro-entérologie et d'Oncologie Digestive (JFHOD) 2014 Congress in which ESDO was the invited European Society. I was very positively impressed by importance given to digestive oncology in this congress both in quantity and quality. Furthermore I attended the Joint Symposium of ESDO, FFCD and SNFGE "The gastroenterologist: A specialization in the heart of the management of cancer in Europe" that brought together ESDO members and other experts in digestive oncology from various European countries and lead to a very interesting exchange of experiences and ideas between the participants.

Overall I rate my impressions as very positive. I participated in the activities of an excellent Digestive Oncology Department that showcased all the advantages of multidisciplinary in patient care and provided a great example of the role of the gastroenterologist specialized in digestive oncology. I feel greatly enriched in experiences and contacts with colleagues and became even more convinced of the value of multidisciplinary care and collaboration between specialists in line with the mission of ESDO. I believe that such experiences have provided me with ideas and energy on how to propose and implement this reality in my home country, Greece. I therefore highly recommend to any colleague interested in Digestive Oncology to apply for future ESDO fellowships and in particular to consider the Digestive Oncology Department of the Hôpital Européen Georges Pompidou (HEGP) as the host institution.

I take the opportunity of expressing my sincerest thanks and appreciation to all the staff of the Digestive Oncology Department of the Hôpital Européen Georges Pompidou (HEGP) staff and above all to Professor Philippe Rougier and Professor Julian Taïeb for their hospitality, insight and for rendering the fellowship such a rewarding experience. I would also like to thank ESDO for their support and for providing me with such a great opportunity. I consider that all future fellows, host institutions, and digestive oncology patients will all greatly benefit from the ESDO trainee fellowships.

Yours Sincerely,

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