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## **ESMO Clinical Unit Visit Report**

**The Royal Marsden, NHS Foundation Trust  
London, UK**

12/03/2018 – 20/04/2018

### **Clinical Unit Visit to The Gastrointestinal Unit**

**Fellow:** Monica Valente, Centre for Immuno-Oncology, Medical Oncology and Immunotherapy Division, Oncology Department, University Hospital Sienna, Italy

**Mentor(s):** Professor David Cunningham, Gastrointestinal and Lymphoma Unit

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The Royal Marsden Foundation Trust is a world-leading cancer Centre and it is internationally renowned for its Gastrointestinal Unit. Clinical Research is an important component of the Unit. The GI Unit has participated in several international trials, which have defined the role of new drugs and improved the standards of treatment of the patients with gastrointestinal tumors. There is a designated South West London Cancer Network Centre for upper gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery. Current areas of research include preoperative chemotherapy esophageal cancer and new drugs, which target cancer-specific pathways in advanced upper gastrointestinal neoplasms. I was very excited about this opportunity, given my growing interest in management and in clinical research on gastrointestinal and neuroendocrine neoplasms. The ESMO Clinical Unit Visit Fellowship is a great opportunity for young doctors to improve themselves and to become better physicians. The main reason for my application was this: to have work experience abroad in a center of excellence for top-level research and so I chose The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust. I was interested in improving my medical knowledge on gastrointestinal cancers and I really wanted to do this at The Royal Marsden Foundation Trust, because I knew about its renowned Gastrointestinal Unit. The Aim of my project was to acquire skills and to deepen my medical knowledge, to discover similarities and differences among different Institutions with different health care systems and to learn from an experienced team with state-of-the-art facilities for management of gastrointestinal tumors.



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The ESMO Clinical Unit Visit Fellowship is a great opportunity for young doctors, allowing physicians to acquire new skills and to deepen their medical knowledge, besides having work experience in the field of oncology in centres of excellence.

The project programme was run by a dedicated multidisciplinary team with medical oncologists, GI surgeons, gastroenterologists, pathologists and specialist nurses. Another point of interest was to have practical experience in the conduction of trials in the field of gastrointestinal oncology.

The weekly work plan involved the following activities:

- Research with conduction of clinical trials
- Clinical activity in Ward and in Day Hospital
- Practical workshops
- Multidisciplinary Team
- Journal Club

In short, it was a wonderful experience, a life and a work experience, although brief. I would like to acknowledge Professor Cunningham for all his support and effort in helping me. I am infinitely thankful to Mrs Philippa Martin and I appreciated her great professionalism and kindness. Also, I would especially like to thank Gihan Ratnayake, Francesco Sclafani, Kate Young, Vasiliki Michalarea, Fiona Turkes, Michael Davidson, Elisa Fontana for all their time, kindness and help during the 6 weeks of my visit.

***Mandatory:***

*Sienna, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018*

*Monica Valente*

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