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ESMO Clinical Unit Visit Report

Institut Gustave Roussy (IGR)

Villejuif, Ile-de-France, France

1/7/19 – 2/15/19

Breast cancer Unit visiting fellowship

Fellow: Dr Joseph BERNARD, Jr (*Innovating Health International, Port-au-Prince, Haiti*)

Mentor(s): **Breast cancer unit:**

Dr Suzette DELALOGUE

Dr Barbara PISTILLI

Dr Meriem MOKDAD-ADI

Dr Monica ARNEDOS

Pr Fabrice ANDRE

Radiotherapy unit :

Dr Sofia RIVERA

Dr Stéphanie BOLLE

Introduction:

I mainly chose to apply for a clinical unit visit fellowship at Institute Gustave Roussy because of its world-known reputation. I had the opportunity in the beginning of my career in oncology to attend its 2-week course on chemotherapy and the management of cancers in January 2016. It was a rich experience that had a significant impact on my training.

The aims of my visit were to observe high-standard of care of cancers in a high-resource country, to be introduced to radiation therapy that is not available in Haiti and to create ties with a cancer institute to improve medical education and management of cancer in Haiti. My focus was on breast cancer, the most common in Haiti, but I wanted also to experience the management of gynecological and gastrointestinal cancers.

Summary of activities:

Besides my activities in the breast cancer unit, I had the chance to participate in extra activities which were:

1) Journal club and lectures on oncology:

These activities allowed me to stay updated on general oncology, at least in a theoretical point of view.

2) Participation to multidisciplinary team meetings for gynaecological and digestive cancers:

After breast cancer, gynaecological and digestive cancers are the most common in Haiti. It was a good experience to participate in these meetings, to learn about team work, and to be more familiar with imaging tests such as PET-scan, MRI, angio-mammography and bone scintigraphy.

3) Radiation oncology unit visit (18 hours in total):

I had the chance to observe for the first time and in every detail the main steps of radiation therapy.

The schedule of my activities was as follows:

- 1/22/19: Consultation, visit of the unit with Dr Rivera;
- 1/29/19: Observation of body scanning; I took 2 extra hours on 2/1/19.
- 2/4/19: Observation of contouring and dosimetry;
- 2/11/19: Observation of the administration of radiation therapy.

4) Participation to the third conference on immunity and cancer (JSIC: Journées Scientifiques Immunité et Cancer) at Paris Descartes University (January 30th and 31st, 2019):

This activity was a proposal of Dr Delalogue herself who forwarded me her invitation. The content of this conference was an update on the current status of immunotherapy in the management of cancers, the role of the microbiota in its efficacy, biomarkers, CAR-T cells, oncolytic viruses and new targets for immunotherapy.

5) Presentation on breast cancer in Haiti (2/13/19) (See picture):

I presented the situation of cancer care and breast cancer in Haiti. Part of the results presented were those of the abstract submitted to ESMO Breast Cancer 2019, on the epidemiological trends of breast cancer from 2014 to 2017. There was a rich interaction with the attendance during this talk.

The schedule of my activities during my 6-week clinical unit visit is summarized in the following table:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8: 30 - 13:00	Breast cancer consultation	Breast cancer consultation (Dr Suzette Delalogue) Radiation therapy (starting 1/22/19)	Breast cancer MDT meeting Conference on Immunity and Cancer at University Paris Descartes (1/30/19)	Breast cancer consultation (Dr Meriem Mokdad-Adi) Conference on Immunity and Cancer at University Paris Descartes (1/31/19)	Chemotherapy ward (Dr Meriem Mokdad-Adi)
13:00 -14:00	Break Research meeting (1/21/19)	Breast cancer lectures	Journal club	Oncology lectures	Break
14:00 – 18:00	Breast cancer consultation	Breast cancer consultation (Dr Suzette Delalogue) GYN ONC MDT meeting (starting 1/14/19)	Breast cancer consultation (Pr Fabrice André) GI oncology MDT meeting (starting 1/15/19)	Breast cancer consultation	Breast cancer consultation (Dr Barbara Pistilli)
18:00 – 19:00			Collectif sénologie 2/13/19: Presentation on breast cancer in Haiti		

This schedule built with Dr Delalogue matched perfectly with my goals for this fellowship. I appreciated the high level of experience, the generosity and the humanity of my mentors, qualities that are needed to treat patients with cancer. The courses and other MDT meetings helped me be updated on the management of the other cancer types.



Conclusion:

In conclusion, optimal cancer cannot be performed without a multidisciplinary approach nor basic diagnostics and treatment infrastructures. In Haiti, a lot remains to be done in terms of medical education and training, logistics, access to diagnosis techniques and prevention. At this point, standard of care is impossible to achieve in Haiti, and this was stressed out in my final presentation on the actual situation of cancer care in Haiti. Gustave Roussy could be a good partner in helping Haiti reach this level of expertise.

Acknowledgements:

Thank you to the ESMO grant fellowship committee, that selected me for this fellowship. This opportunity although unexpected was a boost for my young oncologist career from a resource-limited country.

The main acknowledgements towards IGR go to Dr Suzette Delaloge, Chief of the Breast Unit of Gustave Roussy, who accepted me for this fellowship without hesitation, and Catherine Cornuault who helped me with the administrative details of my fellowship.

Thanks also to my other mentors of the Breast cancer Unit, Dr Mokdak-Adi, Dr Pistilli, Dr Arnedos, Dr André. Thanks to Dr Patricia Pautier and Dr David Malka who accepted me to attend the MDT meetings of GYN oncology and GI oncology. Thanks to Dr Rivera and Dr Bolle of the radiation oncology department for initiating me to the principles of radiation therapy. Special thanks to Noemi, Alessandro, Elise and Maya. Everyone was very open and generous during my stay.

Paris, 2.15.19

Dr Joseph BERNARD jr

Dr Suzette DELALOGUE

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