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Fondazione IRCCS
Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori

ESMO European Integration Fellowship Report

Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori
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Genito-urinary malignancies care – what we have to improve?

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Mentor(s): Dr. Andrea Necchi, Department of Medical Oncology

I was excited to submit my application to the ESMO European Integration Fellowship because my on-the-job experience was not enough for European urooncologists standards as well as the absence of oncurology sub-specialization fellowship in Ukraine. In my daily practice besides performing surgeries I have also to manage conservative treatment to my patients, such as hormone-, immune-, and chemotherapy. Therefore, I would like to train at high-volume comprehensive oncurology center, where I could learn new and modern approaches to diagnose and to cure genitourinary malignancies – both surgical and conservative.

I was happy my 6-weeks course had taken place in the Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori in Milan. It is the largest comprehensive cancer center in Italy, which has been providing the highest standard of patient care as well as conducting scientific research. All of this makes the Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori a comprehensive cancer center for 90 (!) years – since its foundation in 1928. Particularly, it is the referral center in Italy (and one of the most recognized worldwide) in germ cell tumors and penile squamous cell carcinoma. I was also lucky to have a well-known oncologist in the urooncology field – Dr. Andrea Necchi, who is the member of the Executive Committee of the EORTC Genitourinary Cancers Research Group, EAU Research Foundation board member, member of the Penile Cancer Guidelines Panel of EAU as well as ESMO Faculty of Genitourinary Cancers and member of the ESMO Oncology Pro Working Group.

Coming to Milan I would like to learn the last approaches to the genito-urinary malignancies care, to understand the clinical impact of immunotherapy revolution in urooncology, to know the major translational findings that are emerging from pivotal trials as well as the main pathways of clinical research in the field of GU oncology, to have a clinical experience within the key ongoing phase 1-2-3 trials in bladder cancer and to know how to design modern clinical trials in the field of GU oncology.

So, as I mentioned above, I had a unique opportunity to train at high-volume comprehensive oncurology center. Moreover, at referral center for rare urological cancer, the department, where the medical oncologists and urologists work hand-by-hand. During my Fellowship I attended clinical wards, in- and outpatient departments, case-discussions, seminars and courses. I discussed the current approaches to genito-urinary malignancies care, attended research units. I was in charge of a brief research project dedicated to non-seminoma germ cell tumours. I also had a great opportunity to observe a few open and laparoscopic retroperitoneal lymph node dissections (in case of testicle cancer) every week, ileo-inguinal lymph node dissections (in case of penile cancer), laparoscopic kidney resections, TUR of urinary bladder etc. I learned how to perform MRI/Ultrasound fusion biopsy of prostate. I observed the ongoing clinical

trials, genito-urinary multidisciplinary meetings. I was wondered the high level of using immunotherapy agents in oncurology. Besides discussing the complications of novel immunotherapy drugs I also had opportunity to observe them during daily consultations of patients by department doctors. Briefly, everything I saw during my Fellowship exceeded that I expected before it.

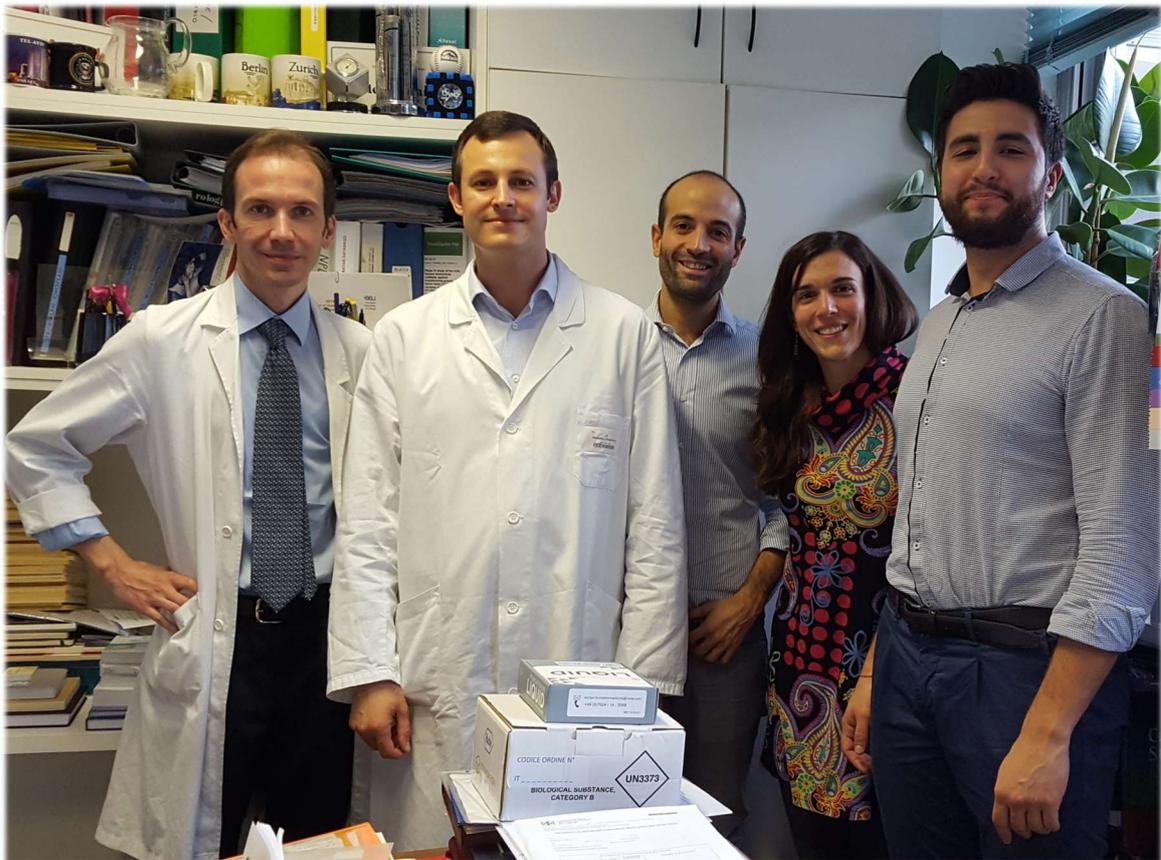
Conclusion.

Thanks for this Fellowship I will provide the proper and adequate treatment for my patients as well as follow-up. I gained a great experience in urological cancer management, decision making, organizational process at in- and outpatient departments , communications between different specialists and patients etc. I could also share the gained knowledge with my colleagues. Finally, this Fellowship had boosted my knowledge in oncurology – both conservative and surgical approaches.

Acknowledgements.

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It was a great time with great people at a great institution (and in a great city)!



14 December, 2018, Ternopil (Ukraine)

Dr. Bohdan Bidovanets