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ESMO Clinical Unit Visit Report

Host institute:

Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; Addenbrooke's Hospital, United Kingdom

Fellowship dates:

11 September – 23 October 2019

Fellowship title:

'Translational management of gastrointestinal cancers'



Fellow: Angelica Petrillo
University of study of Campania "L.Vanvitelli", Italy

Mentor: Elizabeth Smyth
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; Addenbrooke's Hospital, United Kingdom

Introduction and purpose of the Clinical Unit Visit

I was very delighted to have the chance to spend six weeks, from the 11th of September to the 23rd of October 2019, with my host-institute mentor Dr Elizabeth Smyth at the gastrointestinal Unit of the Addenbrooke's Hospital-Cambridge University NHS Foundation Trust, United Kingdom.

The aim of my project titled "Translational management of gastrointestinal cancers" was indeed to translate molecular understanding into clinical practice, improving my concept of precision medicine in gastrointestinal cancers as well as my skills in the diagnostic work-up of patients from a multidisciplinary point of view. I applied for this programme because I strongly believed that visiting the Addenbrooke's Hospital under the supervision of an international expert in gastrointestinal tumours such as Dr Smyth would be a unique opportunity to increase my knowledge in that field, connecting the basic research to every day clinical practice. Additionally, as a young oncologist, I was sure that the active participation in the high-level clinical activity of the centre would improve my human and professional skills, impacting on my present and future patients' care.

Six-week timetable

During the six weeks of the Clinical unit visit programme, I was involved in the daily clinical practice in Upper GI, Colorectal and Hepatobiliary clinics under the supervision of Dr Elizabeth Smyth. Additionally, I attended the multidisciplinary session about the colon rectal, upper GI cancers and liver metastasis, observing and learning from all the clinical case discussions and having the great opportunity to meet colleagues from all over the world. I also attended the laboratory meetings in the Fitzgerald lab and the clinic at the Phase I unit (CRUK Cambridge Center), improving my skills in the precision medicine and my "translational point of view".



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The overview of my scheduled activities during my clinical unit visit is summarised in the following table:

Weekday	AM	PM
Monday	Colorectal clinic Colorectal multidisciplinary session	Colorectal clinic
Tuesday	Phase I clinic Trials Unit session	Hepato-bilio-pancreatic cancers (HBP) clinic
Wednesday	Upper GI multidisciplinary session Phase I clinic	Upper GI clinic
Thursday	Liver multidisciplinary session research	Hepato-bilio-pancreatic cancers (HBP) clinic
Friday	Ward	Fitzgerald lab meeting

In addition to this schedule, I attended a congress about the NCRI Upper Gastrointestinal Group trials meeting in London; I have been enthusiastically involved in several meetings about the hospital organisation as well as about clinical trials and future scientific projects. I was delighted to observe and learn from my host mentor the capacity of how to organise and manage every day work. I assisted Dr Smyth in two peer reviews for *Annals of Oncology* and *Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology* and was given the wonderful opportunity to participate in the writing of an editorial for *Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology* about gastric cancer that was published last in October 2019.

Expected transferable skills on return to home institute

This experience has given me the possibility to improve my knowledge and skills in the translational management of gastrointestinal tumours from both clinical and preclinical point of view, allowing me to optimise and improve the quality of my job at my Home institute. Additionally, I met several colleagues (oncologists, radiologist, surgeons, gastroenterologists and so on) that enhanced my belief that the knowledge can be improved only through the confrontation in a multidisciplinary team. Finally, my host mentor and I arranged to write a number of reviews together in order to maintain a link between both institutions for future collaborations.

Conclusion and acknowledgements

In conclusion, I enjoyed the Clinic Unit visit fellowship, as it gave me a very important chance to improve my scientific knowledge, learning and sharing of my ideas in a stimulating and qualified multidisciplinary environment.

Therefore, I would like to thank ESMO for this opportunity, because I never imagined that those few weeks could be so important to my human growth and so I definitively recommend this experience to every ESMO Young Oncologist.

I really would like to thank Dr Elizabeth Smyth who helped and supported me in this fellowship with kindness, introducing me to many colleagues and giving me the opportunity to attend each meeting with her. Beyond her high level of experience, I appreciated her generosity and humanity in taking care of patients and of me, qualities that make me feel like at home.

I would also like to thank Prof Rebecca Fitzgerald who let me attend the lab meetings, Dr Bristi Basu for her kindness in the HPB clinic, Dr Gabriel Funingana who supervised me in the Phase I unit and gave me the opportunity to visit Cambridge with a very special guide, and Prof. De Vita from my home institute who encouraged me to apply. Finally, I would thank all the wonderful people that I met and helped me in Cambridge during that period, because I learned something from each of them.



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