



European Society for Medical Oncology



**ESMO Clinical Unit Visit report
19th August to 27th September 2013**



*IRCCS Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria San Martino - IST
Istituto Nazionale per la Ricerca sul Cancro*

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First of all thank you very much for the great opportunity that you gave me with the ESMO Clinical Unit Visit. I spent my six weeks at the Jules Bordet Institute, from August 19th to September 27th, under the supervision of Dr de Azambuja and Dr Azim.

As I wrote in my motivation letter, I am really interested in clinical research, and I am involved particularly in clinical trials about breast cancer. Above all, I'm mainly involved in the management of young cancer patients, with a particular attention in discussing and offering them, as early as possible during treatment planning, the different strategies available to attempt to preserve ovarian function. Furthermore, the Unit where I work is the reference center in our region for the treatment of breast cancer during pregnancy, taking a special care both of the mother and the child. Finally, I'm involved in some projects on fertility preservation and management of breast cancer during pregnancy. These were the reasons for applying for the ESMO Clinical Unit Visit with Dr. Azim who is one of the leading experts in the field of fertility preservation in cancer patients and in the management of breast cancer patients with pregnancy during or after cancer diagnosis. Moreover, the Jules Bordet Institute is one of the most important center for the treatment of breast cancer.

During my six weeks at Jules Bordet Institute, I really had the opportunity to improve my education and above all the research skills in the field of breast cancer, with a particular attention in the field of fertility preservation in cancer patients and management of breast cancer during pregnancy. Dr. Azim and other colleagues from the Jules Bordet Institute, presented me all the

activities and research projects that the BrEAST data center and the BIG are carrying on for the treatment of breast cancer patients.

I had the opportunity to spend 3 days with Dr Demeestere in the fertility clinic at Erasme hospital: I was taught about their projects in the field of fertility preservation, both clinical and preclinical studies.

Then, I had the opportunity to meet Professor Amant (one of the leading experts in the treatment of breast cancer during pregnancy) at the University Hospital in Leuven: he invited my center to join his task force on breast cancer during pregnancy and I really hope to do it soon and to contribute in his project.

I spent some days in consultation with Dr de Azambuja having the opportunity to see what was the clinical practice in the management of breast cancer patients in a leading cancer center as the Jules Bordet. It was very interesting to find some differences as compared to the center where I work. I then had the opportunity to gain insight into translational research in the lab of Professor Sotiriou, one of the most important in Europe for breast cancer.

Finally, I'm very happy that Dr Azim gave me the opportunity to be involved in some research projects that they are carrying on: so I have the great chance to collaborate with them in the future.

In conclusion, visiting the Jules Bordet Institute had been a great experience for my career, and I realized that I really would like to spend a longer period there in the future: with another ESMO fellowship would be great!!!!

Thank you very much again for this great experience.