

ESMO Palliative Care Fellowship (Oct 2019 – Nov 2019)

Dr Venkata Pradeep Babu Koyyala

FINAL REPORT

Home Institute: Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Center

Host Institute: Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

Introduction

Palliative care as a separate medical speciality is taking its shape in developing countries like India, whereas in several developed countries, it is a well-established speciality with many advances in the same.

Goals or aims

To observe and take home to India about the quality indicators of delivery of palliative care from princess Margaret cancer centre, in the outpatient setting and in the Palliative care inpatient ward. To learn about various types of modalities to relieve pain in terminally ill patients.

Description of the time spent at host institute

Princess Margaret Cancer Centre is a state the tertiary cancer centre, with dedicated caregivers and teachers. I understood and acknowledged the time, dedication and expertise of Dr Zimmermann, Dr Al-Awamer and Dr Banerjee and their team in delivering the same to the patients and different modalities they are currently using to alleviate suffering in patients attending their department.

Conclusion

It was an excellent opportunity given by ESMO. It changed my outlook towards terminal cancers and approach to the delivery of care, palliative care in particular. I am a completely different person after the completion of this integrative fellowship.

Acknowledgements

Dr Camilla Zimmermann, Lead, Palliative care, PMC, UHN

Dr Ahmed Al-Awamer, Asst. prof, Palliative care, PMC

Dr Subrata Banerjee, Palliative care, PMC, UHN

