

ESMO European Integration Fellowship Report

Institute Jules Bordet, Brussels, Belgium

21 September, 2021 – 3 November, 2021

Professional Visit to Institute Jules Bordet – Expertise in Breast Cancer - clinical practice and research

Fellow: Ana Tecic Vuger

Mentor(s): Prof. Ahmad Awada, MD PhD

Introduction and purpose of the European Integration Fellowship

European Integration Fellowship is a six – week visit to a center of excellence, providing insights into clinical practice and research activities of an expert cancer center.

I attended the Integration Fellowship program through a professional stay at Jules Bordet Institute in Brussels, Belgium. It is a world-wide very well-known cancer center with expertise in many fields in oncology.

I focused my stay on breast cancer care.

Great knowledge and experience I gain with this opportunity of being an attendant of the Integration Fellowship program I intend to implement into my clinical practice at home institution, where I run the breast cancer care.

The idea of an expert center visit is to transfer knowledge, skills and ideas and initiatives to a home institution and system, in order to improve and progress.

Six-week timetable

Every week I was scheduled with some regular and some extra activities. I attended consultations, regular clinical practice daily work with patients – on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On Monday I attended also some extra professional and organisational types of meetings, as well as some lectures from Institute staff. Also, on some Mondays, I attended CTSU (Clinical Trial Support Unit). Tuesdays I regularly attended consultations, as well as standard multidisciplinary meeting on metastatic cancer. On some Tuesdays I organised some extra meetings and had some extra work at the CTSU. Wednesdays, I usually stayed at CTSU, working on some projects and developing ideas and collaboration on some scientific work. Thursdays I regularly had consultations, as well as some time scheduled for the visit to the ward and admission of patients. On Thursdays I also regularly had multidisciplinary meeting on early breast cancer and gynaecological cancers, and also a meeting on therapeutic decisions for admitted patients. Fridays there were some extra scientific meetings, as well as some educational regular parts of program, such as meeting the oncology expert, or grand internal medicine meeting, and sometimes I also had consultations. During the prescheduled timetable, I also had many adjustments, taking out the maximum from time given, and attending some extra hours of consultations, as well as extra time at CTSU, and also visiting the translational lab and working on some projects.

Expected transferable skills on return to home institute

From what I have seen and learnt and discussed with my mentor, other experts and mentors and my colleagues at IJB. I trust to transfer many valuable skills and ideas and practice tips for improving and facilitating everyday clinical practice in the circumstances I live and work in. Also, I met great experts and colleagues, whom I connected with, and started collaborating on some valuable projects of interest, that we intend on developing further. Finally, I included and became a member, myself and my home institution, in some very valuable academic community projects, and I plan on proceeding with working on them and collaborating on an international level further.

<i>Conclusion and acknowledgements</i>
<p>Very special, precious opportunity to spend time and be surrounded by great experts in the field of interest, to spend time in great, valuable, fruitful discussions and boosting knowledge, skills, and practice and research ideas and initiatives, to bring and implement at home.</p> <p>Many sincere thankyou's to all the people and system who helped and supported me to win this great opportunity, at my home institution, at ESMO and at IJB.</p> <p>THANK YOU.</p>

This ESMO European Integration Fellowship was supported by ESMO.