

## ESMO Clinical Unit Visit Report

### Medical University of Vienna

24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018

#### Multidisciplinary management of gastro-intestinal tumours

**Fellow:** Claudia Cardone, Università degli Studi della Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”, Napoli

**Mentor(s):** Prof. Matthias Preusser, Medical University of Vienna

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My name is Claudia Cardone, a young oncologist, currently PhD fellow at the Medical Oncology Department of Università degli Studi della Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”, in Napoli. Translational research in colorectal cancer is my primary area of interest. At the end of my residency, I decided to apply for the “ESMO Clinical Unit Visit” (CUV) in order to expand my knowledge, to challenge my self in an international environment and boost positive and critical cooperation.

I decided to choose the Oncology Department of the Medical University of Vienna, one of the leading institutions in Europe in the field of cancer research and treatment and to ask for the supervision of Prof. Matthias Preusser. My main goal was to establish a clinical research network between the two Institutes, already in connection in the context of preclinical projects.

I am extremely grateful to ESMO for being given the opportunity to have this intense experience. During my stay at the Medical University of Vienna, I could improve my clinical skills joining multiple Units of the Department, participating in an intense and variegated daily consultations program and taking advantage of the collegiate clinical approach during multidisciplinary meetings, focused on individualized treatment decision. Visiting multiple Units has given me the chance to take insight and to develop a scientific curiosity in fields of oncology I was not used to, such as Brain and Head and neck tumours. However, I spent the most time of my CUV in the Gastro-intestinal Unit, working together with Prof. Gerald Prager and his amazing team. I had the opportunity to meet a large number of patients and follow them in a new language and in a different cultural milieu. Furthermore, I joined the activity of several clinical trials (phase I-II- III) and participated in stimulating scientific meetings and conferences. I have also been fully

immersed in science, through collaboration with the research institute of the Comprehensive Cancer Center. Thanks to the ESMO fellowship, I could establish a network of clinical scientists contributing to expand the translational project I will be working on during my PhD program. Moreover, I had chance to interact with many young oncologists and young cancer research professionals and I really hope that this fruitful collaboration will proceed in the future. Last but not least, Vienna is a charming, safe, cosmopolitan town, where culture meets nature in a suggestive historical context.

I am really grateful for the support of Prof. Preusser and his team. I encourage everyone to apply for the CUV and I highly recommend to consider the Medical University of Vienna as host Institution. Thank you ESMO to support my education and my career-development path!



*Napoli, 11 January 2019*

*Claudia Cardone*

*Matthias Preusser*

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