

ESMO Clinical Unit Visit 2014

REPORT

Fellow: Dr Sebastian Ochenduszkio
Host institute: Department of Hematology & Medical Oncology, University Hospital of Valencia, Spain
Mentor: Prof. Andres Cervantes
Visit dates: 27 October – 12 December 2014

Home institute: University Hospital in Krakow, Poland

Acquiring Clinical Experience in Digestive Tract Cancers Treatment

Being a medical oncologist with a particular interest in gastrointestinal cancer, I chose to spend six weeks of my Clinical Unit Visit ESMO Fellowship in the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology at the University Hospital in Valencia in Spain under the supervision of Prof. Andres Cervantes. During the fellowship I had a chance to observe a specialized care of patients mostly with GI cancer. I spent most of the time in the outpatient clinic and the Chemotherapy Day Unit where I participated in consultations of new patients recently diagnosed with cancer, observed treatment of patients undergoing chemotherapy and saw patients who were in a follow up. Working in Poland, a country with a limited access to modern chemotherapy and targeted therapy, it was a great opportunity for me to see the practical use of these treatments according to the most up-to-date guidelines. I have become more experienced with the drugs that hopefully I will be able to use in my home department in the near future.

I also had an opportunity to observe a specialized care of patients with GI cancer realized within the multidisciplinary teams: hepatobiliary, colorectal and gastroesophageal. Those teams consisted of doctors of different specialities including: medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, radiologists and pathologists. They meet once a week to discuss the best treatment options for patients recently diagnosed with cancer and also to discuss the best treatment modality for „difficult” patients whose disease course is not standard. Participation in these multidisciplinary teams was especially valuable experience for me as at present they are being formed in my hospital in Krakow.

During the Fellowship, I also had a chance to observe clinical and translational research conducted in the Instituto de Investigacion Sanitaria INCLIVA, where patients have an access to a large number of clinical trials including many phase 1. And having completed the doctoral thesis on gastric cancer treatment, it was a great opportunity for me to become more up-to-date with the current translational research being conducted in this tumor.

But above all, the ESMO fellowship gave me the opportunity to meet wonderful people and great physicians, both specialists and residents, I had a chance to work with. For this as well, this fellowship will always become unforgettable. I would also like to mention that the Fellowship gave me a chance to visit a wonderful city of Valencia. Not only this, I also had an opportunity to visit other parts of Spain, to enjoy a typical spanish lifestyle and to improve my Spanish language.

At the end, I would like to thank to the ESMO Fellowship Committee for this great opportunity that definitely will change my future professional career. The stay in the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology at the University Hospital in Valencia was very profitable; I improved my clinical skills and saw a different approach to the treatment of patients with GI cancer. Definitely this experience will change my everyday clinical practice and improve patients' care in my home institute.

And of course, I am deeply thankful to Prof. Andres Cervantes for the warmth acceptance and professional supervision.

Definitely, I recommend both the ESMO Clinical Unit Visit fellowship and the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology at the University Hospital in Valencia to every young oncologist.

Sebastian Ochendusko

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