

ESMO Clinical Unit Visit 2014 Report

Fellow: Dr Lisa Salvatore
Host Institute: Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology, Barcelona Spain
Mentor: Dr J Tabernero
Visit dates: 30th of June - 10th of August 2014

Home Institute: Department of University Oncology 2, Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria Pisana, Pisa, Italy (Dr A. Falcole)

Clinical Unit Visit in the Gastrointestinal Unit

First of all, I have to thank ESMO for this great opportunity. I spent my 6 weeks, from the 30th of June until the 10th of August 2014, at the Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology, Barcelona, Spain, directed by Dr. J. Tabernero.

It has been one of the best experiences in my life, both for my scientific development and human growth.

I spent my time with the Gastrointestinal Tumors Group (PI Dr J. Tabernero), the Early Clinical Drug Development Group (PI Dr J. Rodon), the Genomics Cancer Group (PI A. Vivancos), the Molecular Oncology Group (PI P. Nuciforo) and the VHIO's Experimental Therapeutics Group (PI V. Serra). I had the possibility to see how a new drug or a new potential biomarker are investigated, learning their complex development from the bench to the bedside.

In particular, I have to thank Dr. Rodon, Dr. Argiles, Dr. Azaro, Dr. Cruz and Dr. Serra for everything they taught me. For me, it has been the first experience in a "Phase I Unit" and it has been so exciting that I hope to have the opportunity, in the future, to spend part of my work in phase I studies. This experience has strengthened my wish to dedicate my career to clinical and translational research, in particular in the field of colorectal cancer.

Probably 6 weeks are not enough to develop a project, but I think that they could be the starting point for a fruitful collaboration (in particular between the young oncologists of the two Institutions) and the adequate time to understand how to improve your own knowledge and your own scientific career.

I suggest to all my young colleagues to apply for the CUV ESMO fellowship, because I think that it could be an important moment of growth, from both a working and a personal point of view, and it could help to create an international network of oncologists and researchers, starting new promising collaborations.

I thank again the ESMO for this extraordinary opportunity and I hope to write a further report about a new great experience.

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