

## ESMO Clinical Unit Visit Report

### Hospital Clinico Universitario Valencia

24 August 2015 – 2 October 2015

#### CLINICAL VISIT IN GASTROINTESTINAL UNIT

**Fellow:** Maria Maddalena Laterza, MD, Medical Oncology, PhD student

**Home institute:** Second University of Naples, *Naples*

**Mentor(s):** Andreas Cervantes

**Host Institute:** Hematology and Medical Oncology, Hospital Clinico De Valencia

First of all, I have to thank ESMO for this great opportunity. I spent my 6 weeks, from the 24th of August until the 2th of October 2014, at the “Hospital Clinico Universitario” Institute of Oncology, Valencia, Spain, directed by Dr. A. Cervantes.

As I wrote in my motivation letter, I am really interested in clinical research, and I am involved particularly in clinical trials about Gastrointestinal Tumours. Above all, I’m mainly involved in the management of gastric cancer patients with a particular attention in discussing and offering them the different strategies available to attempt to increase survival. Furthermore, the Unit where I work is the reference center in our region for the treatment of gastrointestinal neoplasms and so I wanted to acquire new skills in an international reference institution, concerning gastrointestinal cancer clinical trials and clinical research. These were the reasons for applying for the ESMO Clinical Unit Visit with Prof. Andreas Cervantes who is one of the leading experts in the field of and in the management of gastrointestinal tumours.

During this period, I have participated in clinical education and research activities, related to gastrointestinal tumor Unit. The Programme that I followed included: clinical case discussions every morning, outpatient clinical activity 4 days for week, 2 educational meeting for week and participation in weekly multidisciplinary team meeting for colon rectal, upper GI, and hepato.

There is a significant clinical research activity at this Hospital (Instituto de Investigacion Sanitaria called INCLIVA), including a “Phase 1 Unit” assessed by a multidisciplinary research team, which I had the chance to visit. Once a month, a meeting is held in order to update the current status of clinical trials and the new purposes available.

This experience has allowed me to develop some skills and expertise in oncology and strength the knowledge in clinical trials. It has been an opportunity to meet other oncologists in order to maintain a link between both institutions for collaborating with further projects in the near future.

Concerning the place, Valencia is a dynamic and huge city with many cultural activities and events to attend. I also have had spare time to think about my career and to open my mind regarding future professional aims.

In conclusion, it has been one of the best experiences in my life, both for my scientific development and human growth and I would definitely recommend to anyone who are in training or already specialist. It helps to learn, share knowledge and better understand oncology from different points of view.

I am thankful to all of the professionals from oncologic department especially Prof. Andreas Cervantes and Dr. Paloma Martines. I would like to thank the ESMO Fellowship and Award Committee for giving me the chance to take part in this experience improve and obtain new knowledge and skills while visiting the most advanced and experienced clinics and hospitals.

*Naples, 08.10.2015*

*Maria Maddalena Laterza*



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