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The European Society for Medical Oncology

E-mail fellowship@esmo.org

Recipient Information	
Family name: Erdem	First name: Gokmen Umut
Home Institute: Kocaeli Derince Training and Research Hospital	
Home Institute Mentor: Dinçer Aydın	Mentor's Email: dinceraydin79@yahoo.com

Grant Information	
Award Type: Integration Fellowship	Year Award Received: 2018
Start date: 02/09/2019	End date: 11/10/19
Project Title: Clinical management of Gastrointestinal Malignancies	

Host Institute Information King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre: Guy's, St Thomas' and King's College Hospitals	
Host Institute Mentor: Debashis Sarker	Mentor's Email: debashis.sarker@kcl.ac.uk

Please provide logos of your home institute and the host institute and any photographs that may have been taken at the host institute during the fellowship.

Introduction and purpose of the European Integration Fellowship
After becoming a medical oncologist in Turkey, I have focused my primary area of interest on gastrointestinal and breast cancer, including diagnosis process, genetic counselling, surgical and oncologic management. I decided to apply for this career development programme because I was sure it would strongly enrich my future studies and help me to improve oncology and translational research in my prospective career. Additionally, I thought this programme an outstanding opportunity to get in touch with different cultures and health systems. And last, I have been very curious about different multidisciplinary approaches to all cancer types at other hospitals around the world.

Given my particular interest in clinical trials about gastrointestinal and breast tumours, I have always wanted to gain new skills in an international reference institution, concerning gastrointestinal and breast cancer, clinical trials, and clinical research. For that reason, I contacted Dr. Debashis Sarker, consultant and senior lecturer at King's College Hospital, that I have not known before. I sent him an e-mail about being an observer for three months in GI department of King's College Hospital. He instantly replied to my mail and suggested me applying for this programme.

Obviously, I was delighted to have the chance for the 6-week training at The King's College Hospital in London where is one of Europe's largest comprehensive cancer centres providing a highly specialist gastrointestinal medical oncology service for all GI cancers thanks to ESMO which is the most important education organisation.

Six-week timetable

My six weeks training took place under the guidance of Dr. Sarker Debashis at the King's College hospital where has UK's largest joint surgical and oncology practice for pancreatic cancer and Europe's largest liver transplant program for hepatocellular carcinoma. During my training at KCH, I followed a weekly programme prepared by Dr. Sarker on six-week timetable plan we have proposed to ESMO.

During the six weeks of Integration fellowship, I attended in multi-disciplinary meetings observing and learning from all the clinical case discussion across the whole range of GI cancers including Hepato-Pancreatic-Biliary (HPB), colorectal cancer and neuroendocrine tumours. I additionally participated in other multidisciplinary meetings for different cancer types such as breast, spinal cord tumours. I was actively involved in the outpatient clinic every week where I could see and discuss patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (every Monday with Dr Debashis Sarker), colorectal and prostate cancer (every Tuesday with Dr. Victoria Harris), breast cancer (every Wednesday with Dr. Mark Nathan) and neuroendocrine tumour (every Thursday with Dr. John Ramage). I observed the ongoing clinical trials. As well as this schedule, I attended KHP Kent and Hampshire Hospitals NET centre seventh annual meeting about gastrointestinal neuroendocrine tumours in London on the last day of my training.

I had the opportunity to follow a lot of patients in a new language and a different cultural environment in London being one of the most culturally vibrant and cosmopolitan cities in the world.

My weekly programme was detailed as follows:

Weekly plan:

Weekday	AM	PM
Monday	HBP MDM	HCC Clinic
Tuesday	CRC and Prostate Clinic	
Wednesday	Breast MDM Breast Clinic	HBP MDM CRC MDM
Thursday	HCC MDM NET clinic	NET MDT
Friday	Neuro MDT	

	Acute Oncology	

Expected transferable skills on return to home institute

The training goals of my clinical unit visit focused on the multidisciplinary treatment of GI tumours, and I attended all MDT meetings held during my visiting. The experience in King's college hospital gave me a golden opportunity of expanding my knowledge and gain experience in clinical and preclinical perspective. Visiting a leading gastrointestinal cancer centre in Europe influenced my experience not only clinically but also, personally and provided me with a framework and an improved vision for the patient' care in my home institute. In Turkey I must manage all kinds of cancer. Based on what I've seen during my internship, I would probably suggest that in Turkey that we should work with sub specialization in different cancer types, in a way we could have organised teams of surgeons, such as radiologist, radiation oncologist, and other specialists.

Conclusion and acknowledgements

In conclusion my 6-week visit to this great Institute had boosted my scientific knowledge and skills about how to approach to all GI cancer patients and what could be improved in my home institution to provide optimal treatment options in the qualified multidisciplinary setting. I am grateful to ESMO for providing me with this a unique opportunity to be part of such an experienced team at high-volume comprehensive centre.

The entire experience was very well supported and organized throughout the process from the acceptance of my application to the last day of my visit. I am happy and thankful that ESMO encourages and offer every young oncologist an excellent opportunity in training, care, development, and intense experience all over the world, therefore I would certainly recommend this fellowship to every young oncologist.

Finally, I would like to say a special thank you to Dr Debashis Sarker, who always made me feel at home, for encouraging me to get involved in this training and to his team, which is full of great professionals and I had the pleasure of meeting them. I hope this collaboration will lead to further research projects between my home institute and the host institution.

This ESMO European Integration Fellowship was supported by ESMO.