

**ESMO TRU Visit  
The Molekulare  
Krebsforschungszentrum of the  
Charité – MKFZ – Berlin, Germany  
27-29 October, 2010**



**Topic: Translational cancer research: the laboratory-clinical interface at the MKFZ**

In October 2010, the Translational Research Unit of the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin department Molekulares Krebsforschungszentrum (MKFZ), hosted 7 ESMO fellows from European and non-European countries.

The program started with a general introduction with the aim to provide young oncologist an insight into main fields of translational cancer research and current methodologies such as gene expression profiling, use of transgenic mouse models and up-to-date technologies at the Charité, funding opportunities in Germany as well as visiting infrastructures of the Charité.

The visit was chaired by Prof. Dr. Clemens A. Schmitt director of the MKFZ. During the 3-day program, the group visited the facilities, laboratories of MKFZ - CVK, laboratory of Functional Genome Research (LFGC)-CCM, tour through the Campus Virchow Klinikum, the research group of Dr. Philipp le Coutre – MKFZ and Clinic of Hematology and Oncology, the research group of Prof. Georg Lenz – MKFZ and Clinic of Hematology and Oncology, the comprehensive Cancer Center Charité – CCCC of Prof. Reinhold Schäfer – Vice Director of CCCC and Coordinator of the LFGC – CCM and the historic tour through the Campus Mitte and the Berliner Medizinhistorisches Museum. Interactive lectures were held daily with discussions.

Alexander Druy: *“Due to the rather small group the interactivity level with faculty was elevated. Fellows had the opportunity to obtain answers and participate in the discussion during seminars”.*

Aiza Jamil: *“Excellent arrangements, well prepared presentations and very good attitude towards the whole group and individuals”.*

Teresa Mele: *“I had the chance to see real examples of translational research initiatives, and how feasible it is to merge clinics and lab work in a productive and useful way. This is personally the most important take home message from this experience”*

Sergiu Ungureanu: *“I think for young researchers at the beginning of their carrier it is very helpful to have such visits, because we can understand and see in practice the latest techniques used in the science”.*

Gustavo Werutsky: *“If there is a fellowship that is important for medical oncologists nowadays the TRU visit is the one. This TRU visit is unique and will be of more importance in the early future due to the advance in oncology in the last years. Young oncologists need an insight into the main fields of translational cancer research and current methodologies applied and the TRU visit in an institute of excellence such as Charité gives us an overview of it. In addition other important things involved in TR studies such as projects management, funding, relationship with clinicians and quality controls are part of this visit”.*



European Society for Medical Oncology

All fellows wish to thank the MKFZ team and ESMO for making this TRU visit such a superb experience. The ESMO Translational Unit Visit was an excellent chance for fellows to benchmark their positions in translational research, and an opportunity for the host institute to meet gifted, young doctors with an interest for translational research.

Prof. Dr. Clemens A. Schmitt