ESMO TRU Visit
Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center,
Nijmegen, The Netherlands
2-4 November, 2010

Topic: New Avenues in Translational Research

In November 2010, the Translational Research Unit of the Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center, hosted 4 ESMO fellows from European and non-European countries. The visit was chaired by Prof. Winette van der Graaf, Head of the Department of Medical Oncology Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center, The Netherlands. The program started with a general presentation of the visit and an introduction to the Radboud Translational Oncology platform.

During the 3-day program, the group visited the departments of Medical Oncology, radiotherapy, pathology, radiology, nuclear medicine, tumor immunology, pharmacology, animal facility with animal SPECT, PET and CT. Interactive lectures were held daily with discussions.

Ahmed AF Salem: “The tremendous organization, well-placed and planned limited recourse allocation and the level of multi-disciplinary cooperation set an example of how translational research needs to be conducted not only to third world countries, like mine, but also to the whole world in general”.

Mehmet Artac: “The presented information was well balanced and supported by adequate evidence. We have seen how to conduct a translational research from bench to bedside in this TRU Visit”.

Paolo Grassi: “The most important thing I learned is the close collaboration between preclinical and clinical research by application of novel diagnostic and evaluation techniques in the era of innovative imaging and biological pathways. I am strongly convinced of the importance of the communication between clinicians and basic researchers working together as a dedicated team. So I wish to promote this methodology to improve clinical practice in my home institute. This meeting was beyond the information: it was inspiring”.

Hashem Sameh: “The visit expanded my knowledge and network base, which I’ll be using when we start conducting our translational research back home”.

All fellows wish to thank the Radboud team and ESMO for making this TRU visit such an excellent experience. The ESMO Translational Unit Visit was very well organized and fellows were impressed on the collaboration and how translational oncology was carried out in the whole institution.

Prof. Winette van der Graaf