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## ESMO Clinical Unit Visit Report

**Oncology Institute Southern Switzerland, Bellinzona, Switzerland**

**13/06/2016 - 22/07/2016**

### **New Drugs in the Treatment of Lymphoma and Breast Cancer**

**Fellow:** Dr Lazar Popovic, Oncology Institute of Vojvodina, Serbia

**Mentor(s):** Dr Emanuele Zucca, Lymphoma Department/ Dr Olivia Pagani, Breast Unit

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From the beginning of my career in oncology ESMO was and is one of the most important education organisation with the most important influence on me. On the other side, first five years of my career was strictly connected to lymphoma patients and I learned a lot from IOSI Lymphoma team (Prof Ghielmini, Prof Cavalli, Dr Zucca, Dr Stathis) papers and books. For years I wanted to come to IOSI to meet those people and to learn from them. In October 2015. I met Prof Cavalli during AROME meeting in Budva, Montenegro and he gave me contacts for future help and cooperation. Few months after that ESMO announced new fellowship grant and that was a chance for me to try. I contacted Prof Cavalli, he asked to Dr Zucca and Dr Pagani to be my mentors and I applied for a grant.

My six weeks fellowship was mixed with three parts: lymphoma unit, breast cancer unit and phase 1 trial unit. Those parts were not strictly separated because I was everyday with different doctor in outpatient unit and two days in a week I was in inpatient visit. Most of the time I spent in lymphoma outpatient clinic with Dr Stathis, Dr Zucca, Prof Ghielmini and Prof Cavalli. During those visits with patient I comprehend their thinking about treatment of Lymphoma patients in the era of new drugs. The greatest problem in my country is non-availability of new drugs in oncology and IOSI was the place where I figured out where is the place of obinutuzumab, ibrutinib, idelalisib and other novel compounds that I learned about only from papers. Once a week I spent whole day with Dr Olivia Pagani and many breast cancer patients. With Dr Pagani I learned many tips on therapy according to subtype of breast cancer, neoadjuvant treatment and metronomic therapy. Also I got my first experience with new drugs for breast cancer that are not available in Serbia. Maybe the most influential part is Phase 1 Clinical Trial Unit. Most of the time I spent with Dr Stathis learning the organisation of Phase 1 research and Clinical trials in global. We treated patients in more than 10 phase 1 trials in different oncology indications with very interesting mechanism

of action. Two days in a week was reserved for in-patients' clinics. One of visits was in chemotherapy and high dose chemotherapy unit and another was in radiotherapy and palliative care unit. Interesting parts of my visit were multidisciplinary boards especially one for hemato-oncology and also journal club every Wednesday where young doctors analysed new papers from oncology journals.

**Conclusion:**

I learned a lot during my stay in IOSI. New knowledge will influence my work in organisation of clinical trials and research unit, treatment of lymphoma and breast cancer. Also, we started in our institution journal club after my return to my Institute. Acquaintance and friendship with doctors from IOSI will lead to new cooperation between our Institution and new research projects.

*Dr Lazar Popovic*

*Novi Sad, 27.08.2016.*

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