

## **2018 EBJIS travelling fellowship - evaluation report**

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Dear EBJIS Executive Committee,

At the beginning of this report, I would like to extend my gratitude to the EBJIS Executive Committee for granting me the EBJIS Fellowship 2018. It was a great opportunity and honour to see four centres specialized in musculoskeletal infections with different treatment options and surgical approaches all over Europe.

The Fellowship started at the 37<sup>th</sup> annual EBJIS meeting in Helsinki. The meeting itself was packed with high quality presentations and it was rich in new information on the diagnosis and therapy of musculoskeletal infections. I was able to hear about new interesting projects and hence to extend my knowledge through the offered lectures.

At the General Assembly meeting, I had the opportunity to meet the other two very friendly fellows Camille and Igors.

After the meeting, we started our fellowship in Graz (Austria) with a very nice welcome from Prof. Mathias Glehr the leader of the infection team and Prof. Andreas Leithner the chief of the orthopaedics department at the Medical University of Graz on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018. After the morning meeting, we attended the morning round of the infection team. Afterwards we were allowed to observe two septic surgeries. The first septic case was a second stage of a two-stage revision after a septic total knee replacement and the second case a primary total knee replacement of a native septic knee joint. The first day ended with a dinner and a tour through the historical centre of Graz. On the second day, Prof Glehr showed us the whole area of the Medical University including the research building with animal experiments. After that we heard some lectures about the infection treatment algorithm of Graz. On the evening, we had a nice barbecue with the whole infection team where we could continue to exchange opinions and ideas. In the morning of the last day, we saw a one-stage revision of a septic knee replacement. After the surgery we left to the airport to continue our journey.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> September, we were warmly welcomed at the CHUV Lausanne University hospital by Prof. Olivier Borens the head of the orthopaedics and trauma department. The day started with the combined orthopaedics and trauma morning meeting where we heard about last night's cases. After that, we discussed some difficult and very interesting cases in Prof. Borens office and we were able to ask upcoming questions which were answered very clearly and explicitly. We had lucid insights into the diagnostic and treatment algorithm at his department. After lunch, we observed the very organized clinical routine in the outpatient clinic where we saw patients with musculoskeletal infections involving septic diabetic foot. At the late afternoon, Prof. Borens generously provided us an aperitif at his home where we then left to a restaurant to have a delicious traditional Swiss cheese fondue. The evening was filled with good conversations and exchanges of views, ideas and opinions. On the next day, we went to the operation theatre where we have seen an interesting 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of a two-stage revision after a septic total knee replacement. After these very informative and comprehensive days, we had two days off over the weekend.

On Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018, we were picked up from our hotels by our amiable host PD Dr. Martin Clauss the leading orthopaedic surgeon of the hip and infection team at the University hospital Basel. First, we participated in the morning meeting at the Bruderholz Baselland Kantonspital. Then we - the fellows- had the opportunity to present some of our recent projects which was followed by a discussion. Some of the senior surgeons gave us reasonable and good suggestions to improve our studies. Afterwards, we observed a replantation of a knee megaprosthesis (2<sup>nd</sup> stage of a 2-stage revision) after a septic total knee replacement. In the afternoon, we went to the University of Basel where we met Prof. Parham Sendi the infectious disease specialist at this university. He presented some interesting septic cases which we could discuss with him and PD Dr Clauss. Any upcoming questions were answered very clearly. We also got to know their diagnostic and treatment algorithm. Then we had another meeting where Dr Mario Morgenstern presented some fracture related infection cases which was again followed by a valuable discussion. For dinner, we had some excellent burgers sustainably enriched by conversations about musculoskeletal infections. In the morning of the second day, we attended the morning meeting at the University of Basel. Afterwards, Camille, our ID physician fellow, had the opportunity to join the infectious disease team while Igors and me joined the outpatient clinic for PJI and FRI where we saw some fascinating cases. Then we got to see the laboratory with their well-known foreign-body guinea-pig infection model which was really very interesting. In the afternoon, we went to the Kantonsspital Baselland to see the septic cases of the infection team. Then we were heading to the airport.

In Barcelona, we met our literate host Prof Dr Alex Soriano the infectious disease specialist at the Hospital Clínic de Barcelona. Igors and I had the opportunity to go to the theatre while Camille joined the infectious disease outpatient clinic. In the theatre, we observed two surgical procedures. In both cases, a second stage of a two stage revision after a septic total knee replacement was performed. The surgeon explained us which diagnostic and therapeutic approaches they use in their clinic. Afterwards, Prof Soriano also presented us their algorithm and some recent projects. On the second day, we saw parts of a one stage revision of a periprosthetic hip infection in the theatre. Our fellowship ended with a stimulating case presentation by one of Prof. Sorianos ID physicians.

Finally, I really want to thank the EBJIS Executive Committee for granting me this amazing Fellowship. I have had a wonderful, informative, insightful, and truly unforgettable time. It has been a great experience, which definitely encourages me to continue my research in this area in the future. I also want to thank Camille and Igors for the remarkable and delightful time. And of course, special thanks to all hosts for their warm hospitality, support and time. It has been an honour to be one of the EBJIS fellows in 2018.

Sincerely yours

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