

ESVS Travel Grant Report - LMU Klinikum University Hospital of Munich

My name is Cecilia Fenelli and I am about to finish my five-year School of Vascular Surgery at University of Bologna, Italy.

I had the great opportunity to spend three months (from March to May 2021) at the Department of Vascular Surgery, directed by Prof. Nikolaos Tsilimparis, at LMU Klinikum University Hospital of Munich (Germany) through ESVS Educational Travel Grant. Since the beginning, I was integrated into their daily schedule and the vascular team was very keen to show me their techniques as well as tips and tricks in different endovascular procedures. They have an excellent expertise especially in the endovascular treatment of complex aortic disease, such as type B aortic dissection, aortic arch and thoraco-abdominal aneurysms, as well as aorto-iliac aneurysms.

During my stay I was able to observe very interesting cutting-edge technologies (aortic arch branched endografts, custom-made and surgeon-modified fenestrated and branched aortic endografts) and some part of ongoing clinical trials, as well as lower limb surgical and endovascular revascularization, carotid disease and acute aortic syndrome. It was absolutely enlightening to see up close how they manage and plan the urgent cases of aortic lesions and how they prepare the surgeon-modified aortic endograft.

From an academic perspective, during my three-months stay, I collaborated with Prof. N. Tsilimparis team in scientific research on the advanced technologies in complex aortic lesions and the endovascular treatment of aorto-iliac aneurysms. We set up together three innovative projects regarding the use of the inverted limb in fenestrated and branched endograft, the iliac branch device and the impact of the anatomical characteristics of iliac axes on the outcomes of IBDs, two of which sharing data from the experiences of Bologna and Munich.

Despite the critical pandemic situation of COVID-19 and the severe restrictions related to it, I enjoyed my stay in Munich from both professional and personal point of view. Prof. Tsilimparis, his colleagues and the nursing staff were all so kind and friendly with me. This experience has inspired me and let me to broaden my knowledge, therefore I would highly recommend it for the young surgeons.

I am so grateful to the European Society for Vascular Surgery for this unique opportunity. If you are considering visiting the LMU Klinikum University Hospital of Munich and want further information from a trainee's perspective, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at cecilia.fenelli@gmail.com.

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