

East is East, and West is West, but definitely the twain shall meet.

In early 2019, Jorn P. Meekel (MD, PhD-Candidate and Surgical Resident in Amsterdam University Medical Center, Amsterdam and Zaans Medisch Centrum, Zaandam, the Netherlands) visited Polisano Medlife Hospital, University "L. Blaga" Sibiu, Romania for a research and educational exchange. This visit was embodied in a recently initiated collaboration between Dr. Kak K. Yeung (MD, PhD, Associate Professor and Vascular Surgeon at Amsterdam University Medical Center) and Dr. Victor S. Costache (MD, PhD, Associate Professor and Vascular Surgeon at Polisano Medlife Hospital, University "L. Blaga"). The aim of this trip was to study innovative techniques in aortic aneurysms and aortic dissections. This included both in-vitro aortic models combined with computational fluid dynamics and clinical prospective studies evaluating effects of endovascular treatment options. Three manuscripts were initiated during the trip to report the outcomes of this collaborative translational research.

Aside from the initiation of a research collaboration, Mr. Meekel had the opportunity to visit clinical meetings, the wards and the operating theatre in order to benefit from clinical knowledge including new endovascular and conventional techniques for aortic aneurysms and dissections, and carotid pathology. This trip was of great value for the personal academic development of Mr. Meekel and constructive for the collaboration of the research groups of Dr. Yeung and Dr. Costache. Furthermore, it might also encourage medical centers to narrow the gap in knowledge and skills of Vascular Surgery in Eastern and Western Europe. The European Society of Vascular Surgery was thanked for their support in this collaboration.