

ESVS Educational Travel Grant Report

My name is Julien Al Shakarchi and I am about to finish vascular surgery training in the United Kingdom. I would like to report here my visit to the department of vascular surgery at Hôpital Marie Lannelongue, Paris, France in July 2021 which was made possible through the support of the ESVS educational travel Grant.

Professor Stéphane Haulon and his team are known internationally for their contribution in the treatment of complex aortic diseases. Prof. Haulon has been a pioneer in expanding the complex endovascular treatment of aortic disease and is one of the most experienced surgeons in Europe. His team look after patients who travel from around France to be treated at Hôpital Marie Lannelongue, which is one of the most prestigious cardiothoracic and vascular unit in Europe.

Due to the difficulties of COVID travel restrictions, my stay in Paris was unfortunately shortened. However it was still a great experience which I will always remember. I had the opportunity to visit all areas of the unit including the angio suites, hybrid and open theatres. In addition, I also really enjoyed visiting the research laboratory and discussing research methodologies and the work carried out there. I particularly appreciate the opportunity to discuss the whole process of managing aortic aneurysms, including planning thoracic and bifurcated aorto-iliac, branched and fenestrated grafts, and their meticulous deployments. I had the opportunity to observe many interesting cases including branched thoracic graft, branched abdominal graft and custom made fenestrated abdominal grafts. It was extremely educational to see up close how they manage the urgent cases of aortic lesions and how they deploy custom made aortic endograft in addition to their use of fusion technology.

I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Stéphane Haulon, Prof. Dominique Fabre, and the rest of the team as well as the European Society for Vascular Surgery for providing me with this great opportunity to learn directly from one of the world's leading experts.

My travel fellowship has been educational, enjoyable, and definitely worthwhile. If you are considering visiting Hôpital Marie Lannelongue and want further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be delighted to help you. My email address is j.alshakarchi@nhs.net

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