

ESVS educational travel grant report

October 2017-January 2018

Klinikum Nürnberg Süd – Paracelsus Medical University, Prof. Dr. Eric Verhoeven

The main purpose of these four months as a visiting fellow in the Department of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery of Klinikum Süd Nürnberg was to learn and improve the endovascular techniques needed for the repair of complex aortic aneurysms as well as participate in the prolific scientific activity of the department.

Prof. Verhoeven and his team have been a referral centre in Germany and Europe for complex endovascular treatment of aortic aneurysms for many years. The volume of patients and expertise in this field, make this department one of the best in Europe to acquire the knowledge needed for both the planning and implantation of complex endografts. Their experience in clinical training with dozens of fellows in vascular surgery visiting their department every year assures a flawless educational work.

During this clinical rotation I had the opportunity to improve my knowledge in several fields:

- Diagnostic and decision-making algorithms, taking part in the daily clinical sessions and radiology sessions.
- Endovascular treatment indication, strategy and device selection.
- Anatomical evaluation, CT image treatment, sizing and ordering of devices, participating in the endovascular aortic measurement sessions.
- Surgical protocols and preoperative steps to ensure a safe procedure.
- Cooperation with the dedicated endovascular nurses and radiology technicians.
- Bail-out techniques and management of intraoperative complications.
- Postoperative surveillance and long-term follow-up protocols

Furthermore, under the guidance and supervision of Prof. Verhoeven and Dr. Katsargyris, I was able to get involved in several research projects during these months. Thanks to them, I learnt how to create and maintain databases, carry out complex statistical analysis, write, correct and submit manuscripts and answer to reviewers. As a result of this collaboration, two articles were published in the EJVES and some new research projects were started and continued in the following months.

This program has represented a great opportunity for me to gain experience in both the clinical and research fields of vascular surgery in order to be able to provide better solutions to our patients and continue the scientific work that pushes forward our specialty every day. Therefore, I would like to thank Prof. Verhoeven and his team for the excellent opportunity that they gave me during these 4 months and to the ESVS for the support that made this clinical rotation possible.

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