

ESVS Educational travel grant report

My name is Hozan Mufty and I am vascular surgeon in the University Hospitals Leuven, Belgium. Worldwide, we see an exponential growth of endovascular aortic repair with fenestrated and branched endografts over the years. Unfortunately, this implicates for younger vascular surgeons a decrease in exposure to open AAA and to more complex thoracoabdominal aortic cases. Endovascular repair has its limits and younger or syndromic patients (e.g. Marfan Syndrome,...) still benefit of open repair. My training in Nurnberg, Germany under supervision of prof. dr. Eric Verhoeven, provided me a strong background in the field of endovascular aortic surgery. That is why I decided to perform a rotation in a large volume center of open vascular surgery. Thanks to the educational travel grant of the European Society of Vascular Surgery (ESVS), I had the opportunity to perform an observership in the department of prof. dr. Roberto Chiesa at the San Raffaele Hospital in Milan, Italy in the period February-March 2020.

Professor Chiesa is one of the world experts in complex aortic surgery and together with his very experienced team they work very hard to perform daily a high load of cases. During my stay, I got the opportunity to see a variety of complex procedures such as open type II post-dissection thoracoabdominal aneurysm repair, many open AAA cases, carotid subclavian bypasses, open debranching of the aortic arch, E-vita graft for frozen elephant trunk. Also many complex endovascular procedures were performed such as candy plug for aortic dissection, TEVAR, EVAR, F/BEVAR, ...

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 virus overwhelmed Italy and obliged the department to cancel elective operations. My observership was limited to one month instead of two. Nevertheless, due to the large draining area an interesting program was maintained with emergency operations such as a ruptured type B dissection. The administrative staff, nurses and fellows are very friendly and supportive. I got the opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people during a very intense period, people which I hope I will see again in the future.

I would like to thank prof. Roberto Chiesa, Prof. Germano Melissano, Dr. Luca Bertoglio, dr. Domenico Baccellieri and dr. Andrea Kahlberg for their kind and warm welcome in their team and their support during my stay. I would also like to thank the ESVS for this grant to make this possible.

If anyone would have questions or require further information regarding my stay, I will be pleased to help. My email address is: hozan.mufty@uzleuven.be

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