

ESVS Educational Travel Grant Report
Vascular Surgery, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (CHU)
Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France
April 2022

Many is said about centralization in big centers, but sadly few are the countries with a stablished system that works. As a vascular surgeon with a high interest in aorta I was willing to see how such a center works and I was so lucky to be able to visit the CHU Pellegrin in Bourdeaux, thanks to the help given by the ESVS via the travel grants.

The CHU Pellegrin is a third level center in Bordeaux and receives patients from all Nouvelle Aquitaine (5.8 million inhabitants). There are all types of patients with arterial diseases (aneurysms, carotids, lower limbs, need of dialysis, etc.), but the main pathology are complex aortic reconstructions, both open and endovascular. Prof. E. Ducasse is the chief and is in charge of complex aortic endovascular procedures and Prof. X. Berard is in charge of the open aortic and complex abdominal syndromes and the vascular infection program. Caroline Caradu is the third senior member of the staff, doing both types of surgery and involved in research and residents/fellows training.

It has been a wonderful month, from a professional point of view I have learned from the best, and from a personal point of view, I am very grateful for the kindness and humanity shown by all of them and will always keep the best memory of this remarkable experience. Bordeaux is really a wonderful city to visit, vivid, beautiful and very friendly to walk around. Someone said this is the best place to live in France.

The day starts mondays at 7:30 (to do a debriefing of urgent cases during the weekend) and the rest of the week at 8 am. There is a meeting on Wednesdays to review the next week programme. There are now 2 operating rooms a day, but in the next months they will have their new ones ready: 1 hybrid room and 2 more theatres.

Both rooms are very close to each other and was easy to jump from one to the other when very interesting cases were done in both at the same time. I had the chance to discuss and learn on numerous cases of FEVAR, EVAR, BEVAR, thoracoabdominal open surgery, inferior vena cava tumors and graft infections. They really are always willing to discuss cases and share their big experience with visitors, residents and fellows, without keeping anything for themselves.

Should anyone be interested in visiting CHU Bordeaux and want further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at gabrielinarajaperez@gmail.com

I want to give a sincere thank to E. Ducasse, X. Berard and C. Caradu and all the team of CHU Bordeaux for their hospitality and humanity and the ESVS for making it possible.

Gabriel C. Inaraja Pérez, MD PhD MSc FEBVS