

ESVS travel grant report

McGill is very active in endovascular treatment of vascular diseases and has become nationally known for their pioneering efforts in endovascular surgery. They run their program across two main academic sites in Montreal namely: The Royal Victoria Hospital and the Jewish General Hospital. Furthermore they provide service to the Montreal General Hospital (trauma centre) and a few other smaller community hospitals. All endovascular procedures are however performed at the two sites mentioned earlier. Patients are referred to these sites, treated and subsequently referred back to their own hospital when possible.

The fact that McGill is tertiary referral centre makes that the pathology treated covers the entire spectrum that we know as vascular surgeons in Europe. They have a well established complex aortic program that has centralized patients needing an open repair to the Royal Victoria Hospital and patients requiring a custom made endograft to the Jewish General Hospital. This makes that the dedicated teams working at these sites are well accustomed to these procedures leading to a higher quality of care. All other vascular pathology is treated equally at both sites.

As an endovascular fellow my duties consisted of planning and organizing all complex endovascular repairs for patients. Furthermore I was expected to perform all endovascular procedures as primary operator or as a senior supervisor to the residents. During the course of this fellowship I have acquired the clinical, cognitive and technical skills required to incorporate cutting-edge endovascular techniques into my future clinical practice. It has provided with a huge daily hands-on training in endovascular surgery that I hadn't been able to acquire during my residency training. Working on a different continent, in a different healthcare system has provided me with an invaluable experience that I will take back and take into practice in The Netherlands.

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