

Travel Grant Report – University Hospital of Bern, Switzerland – Vaiva Dabravolskaite

I have had the privilege of spending three months in the University Hospital of Bern, Switzerland, between May and July 2022. I have spent this time in two departments: Angiology and Vascular Surgery.

Under the tutelage of Prof. I Baumgartner and Angiologist Dr. M. Schindewolf, I was involved in several research projects. I deepened my knowledge in endovascular treatment of peripheral artery disease, venous problems, various bleeding management techniques, and planning and sizing complex vascular conditions. Prof. I. Baumgartner has kindly introduced me to the management of complex AV malformations and provided literature and guidance in understanding the condition.

Under the tutelage of great vascular surgeons: prof. J.Shmidli, prof. V.Makaloski, and Prof.D.Kotelis, I was involved in Planning, sizing, and performing complex aortic, visceral, and peripheral procedures. Since my particular interest focus in learning was complex endovascular procedures, with the kind guidance of Prof. V.Makaloski, I was able not only to observe and plan but also perform steps of complex procedures, such as TEVAR, FEVAR, BEVAR, and EVAR.

On top of everything, Switzerland and Bern are breathtaking; even after a hard day at work, the nature around lifts the energy levels back. People everywhere are super helpful and friendly, and the city is very cosmopolitan, so you will always be able to socialize and relax regardless of the length of your stay.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all colleagues I had the pleasure to work with and learn from. I cannot recommend Bern enough for my colleagues to strengthen their knowledge in endovascular and open vascular surgery.

I want to express my gratitude to the European Society of Vascular Surgery and Secretary General Prof. Maarit Venermo for allowing me to gain experience from one of the best European centers.

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