

ESVS Educational Travel Grant Report - Uppsala Aortic Centre

I am a vascular surgeon in my last year of training working at the University Clinical Centre in Gdańsk, Poland. It is a high volume tertiary centre performing wide range of treatment for different vascular pathologies. However, since I had mostly one-centre experience, I decided it would be of value to visit another, compare techniques and learn more advanced aspects of vascular surgery.

Since my early years of training I showed deep interest in aortic pathology management. In my hospital I am involved in both open and endovascular aortic procedures including complex ones. Moreover I do research on endoleaks after endovascular aortic repair.

In December 2022, with courtesy of ESVS Travel Grant, I had a privilege to spend a two-week aortic fellowship at the Uppsala Aortic Centre, Sweden. It is a worldwide, well-recognised centre of excellence in complex aortic pathology treatment, known for its clinical and academic work in this field.

I joined prof. Kevin Mani, prof. Anders Wanhainen and the team in their everyday work. Having the opportunity to witness the clinical meetings and discussions, I gained thorough understanding of treatment planning and detailed technical aspects of complex aortic pathology management. Every case was revised step by step with comments on different graft options and possible bail out manoeuvres. Moreover, I was always asked to join the discussions and present my point of view with 'how-you-do-it' questions. This helped me to redirect my approach and even gave me ideas on what can be changed or newly implemented in my hospital. I was involved in planning and sizing of the procedures performed which helped me understand the complexity of it and moreover I was introduced and trained in 3mensio sizing. Everything was explained to me very carefully by the members of the team. Being able to observe and assist to various complex aortic cases and other vascular pathology procedures, I learned different approaches and techniques which would be useful in my future work. As an example an interesting thing they use is the Uppsala Stent which is a CMD thoracic graft intended for type B aortic dissections as SINE prevention. What is more, I was able to discuss potential research collaboration pathways and my actual PhD thesis. We already plan a multicenter research on endoleaks.

I am looking forward to apply the experience I gained in Uppsala to my future practice.

I would like to greatly thank Kevin Mani, Anders Wanhainen, David Lindström, Gustaf Tegler, Giuseppe Ascianto, Marek Kuzniar, Mohammed Habib and other members of the team for the opportunity to work with them, extremely interesting discussions and plenty of knowledge and tips they all gave me.

Finally, I would like to thank the ESVS for enabling this invaluable and pleasant experience.

I would be happy to answer any questions regarding my stay in Uppsala Aortic Centre, feel free to contact me - plmarciniuk@gmail.com

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