

ESVS Travel Grant for a visit to the German Aortic Center Hamburg

March 2023 – Florian Enzmann, Department of Vascular Surgery, Medical University Innsbruck, Austria

First of all, I want to thank the European Society for Vascular Surgery for the generous travel grant that supported this learning and scientific experience. As one of the leading centers in the treatment of complex aortic pathologies it was a long-time goal of mine to visit the German Aortic Center in Hamburg.

The organization of the trip was made very easy by the local support of Prof. Tilo Kölbel and the research office in Hamburg. Before I started my journey to Hamburg we agreed on a research topic that I would investigate alongside the clinical aspects of my visit. Prof. Kölbel and his team have researched the effect of sarcopenia on patients receiving endovascular aortic repair. Our goal was to look closer into the development of sarcopenia after complex endovascular repair of thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms as the data in this area is relatively scarce. As for the clinical part of my visit, I received a very warm welcome from the whole team in Hamburg and was able to join their daily clinical case discussion, the weekly aortic conferences and the aortic outpatient clinic together with Prof. Kölbel. The high case load of complex aortic cases, especially of patients with connective tissue disease, paired with the high academic standard of the case discussion resulted in a tremendous learning experience for me. The state-of-the-art hybrid OR helped me in improving the plans for our new hybrid operating room in Innsbruck. During my time in Hamburg, I saw several endovascular branched arch cases, which helped me refining our own techniques for these procedures. I also learned numerous new tricks and bail-outs for fenestrated and branched aortic stent grafts, which will definitely improve the care of our patients in Austria. The team, especially Prof. Kölbel, Giuseppe Panuccio and Fiona Rohlfes, were very informative in discussing the cases and techniques.

In conclusion, I want to thank the whole team of the German Aortic Center Hamburg for the great time I had there and I look forward to an ongoing research collaboration with them.

Kind regards,

Florian Enzmann