



EFORT FOUNDATION

Report Visiting Fellowships

Name: Pablo Slullitel

Country of residence: Argentina

Country of visiting fellowship: Germany

Name of the host: Prof. Klaus-Peter Günther (University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Desden, Germany)

Dates of visiting fellowship: September 1st – September 30th 2019

1. Description of clinical activities during the fellowship
2. Description of scientific activities during the fellowship
3. Description of social aspects of the fellowship
4. Technical skills that I learnt during the fellowship
5. Theoretical knowledge that I learnt during the fellowship
6. New knowledge and skills that I can implement in my own practice
7. Overall reflective statement over how the fellowship contributed to my professional development
8. What are you future plans?

Report to EFORT:

EFORT Travelling Fellowship 2019 - Report by Pablo Slullitel

September 27th 2019

Dresden, Germany

To whom it may concern

The destination I chose for the EFORT's 2019 Guest Nation (Argentina) Travelling Fellowship was Germany and the venue was Dresden, which is the capitol city of the state of Saxony, located in eastern Germany. I was extremely fortunate to have fantastic hosts, consisting of nationally and internationally renowned hip surgeons: Professor Klaus-Peter Günther, Prof. Albrecht Hartmann, Dr. Maik Stielher and Dr. Jens Goronzy.

The city of Dresden is very picturesque and embedded with plenty of history and with charming people. Within my free time during weekends, I was able to do several outdoor activities including a guided tour of the city, running, cycling all along the Elbe river, as well as enjoying tasty local foods with a variety of local beverages.



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There is no doubt that I spent a month at a historic institution, embedded with lots of orthopaedic history. As part of the Universitätsklinikum Carl Gustav Carus Dresden (University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus Dresden), the UniversitätsCentrums für Orthopädie und Unfallchirurgie (Division of Orthopaedics and Traumatology) has always been distinguished and recognized, since its foundation. In 1899, Alfred Schanz was one of the forefathers of this institution, when he started using his well-known cotton dressing for cervical injuries as well as his 'screw' for both osteotomies and external fixation. Another notorious surgeon that spent his time working in Dresden was Prof. Friedrich Pauwels.

The entire team gave me a very warm welcome from the moment I entered the institution till the last minutes of my stay. Their broad surgical agenda covered all aspects of hip surgery, including hip preservation surgery, primary mini-invasive total hip replacement, as well as complex revision arthroplasties for both septic and aseptic failures.

During my fellowship time, I participated in all activities of outpatient as well as inpatient treatment of patients with diverse hip pathologies. The day started at 7.00 AM with daily morning rounds, where radiographic results from elective as well non-elective surgical procedures were presented and discussed. These surgeries were not only the ones performed by the Hip Division, but also the ones carried out by the rest of the orthopaedic teams; therefore, I could be exposed to the whole surgical criteria that the Orthopaedic Division develops and promotes.

The fellowship program included involvement in conferences where indications, both for surgical and conservative treatment, were thoroughly discussed. I really appreciated the time that Prof. Günther spent with me and other fellows in case-based discussions of complex hip preservation surgery. His ample knowledge of hip anatomy, together with his vast experience in procedures such as periacetabular osteotomy, mini-open femoral offset correction and surgical hip dislocation, were of tremendous value in order to understand new concepts and criteria regarding hip preservation surgery. It was hence an excellent opportunity to swap ideas, discuss cases and formulate theories behind different treatment concepts.

The Orthopaedic Division is a high-volume centre that receives referrals from all around Germany. Regarding the surgical agenda, I assisted in a wide variety of surgeries,



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including, among others, the following cases: surgical hip dislocation for the treatment of pigmented villonodular synovitis; periacetabular osteotomy with open offset correction for the treatment of combined acetabular dysplasia and cam-impingement; periacetabular osteotomy with femoral varus and derotational osteotomy for the treatment of acetabular dysplasia associated with increased femoral anteversion and coxa valga; mini-Hueter approach for offset correction and labral repair for treating cam-type impingement; complex femoral revision arthroplasty for failed revision arthroplasty with distorted femoral anatomy and absence of femoral canal; excision arthroplasty (Girdlestone, first-stage) for the treatment of a septic failure of a custom-made acetabular component and a cemented femoral revision stem in a patient with a history of 10 failed surgeries! Overall, I was able absorb new knowledge in these pathologies and technical skills, including tips and tricks, that I can implement in my own practice in the future.

Apart from active assistance within the surgical procedures, I also participated doing research about a series of patients with femoral neck stress fracture due to hip impingement. I performed a literature review on this rare condition and I analysed the clinical presentation of patients diagnosed with this pathology. Hopefully, this manuscript will be published soon.

Above all, what captured my attention the most was the kindness of all the surgical team. All of the surgeons are very respectful people who are easy to work with. Prof. Günther invited Carlos (a visiting fellow from Mexico that became a very good friend of mine) and I to join him and his family for a Sunday morning brunch at his house. Also, Dr. Goronzy was kind enough to invite us at a fancy restaurant for dinner on a Friday evening, where we could enjoy relaxed conversations, both orthopaedic- and non-orthopaedic-related! For sure, I will definitely keep in touch with all of the surgeons I met in Dresden.

I am very grateful to the Hip Unit of the Orthopaedic Division at the Italian Hospital of Buenos Aires, Argentina. I would like to acknowledge Prof. Martin Buttaro for supporting my application and providing me with the time off to relish such a unique learning experience. I would also like to thank Dr. George Grammatopoulos for helping me with the selection of the host centre, considering his prior experience in Dresden. I feel honoured for having been selected for this travelling fellowship. I would finally like to express my gratitude to the Argentinian Association of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (AAOT) and to the European



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Federation of National Associations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (EFORT) for making this opportunity happen.

There is no doubt that this fellowship certainly contributed to my professional development. Since I would like to perform complex hip arthroplasty and hip preservation surgery, this fellowship was perfect to match my interests. I believe that travelling abroad is a great opportunity for orthopaedists to learn and understand different perspectives and criteria. This is why my next step will be doing another visiting fellowship in the United States before I go back to Argentina and start working as an associate consultant surgeon.

Pablo A. Slullitel