



This is the letter that I have sent to the Brazilian Society of Orthopedics and Traumatology President

Mr Romeu Krause MD

President of the Brazilian Society of Orthopedics and Traumatology

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter to thank for the fellowship organized by the European Federation of National Associations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (EFORT) and by the Norwegian Orthopedic Association (NOA) in a partnership with the Brazilian Society of Orthopedics and Traumatology (SBOT). Between May 9th and 17th I had the opportunity to know a fascinating country in terms of history, culture, development, health system and landscapes: Norway.

The fellowship occurred in three Norwegian cities with their hospitals: Bergen (*Haukeland University Hospital*), Trondheim (*St. Olavs Hospital*) e Oslo (*Rikshospitalet University Hospital*). The health system structure is eminently public and works really well: the patients have attendance with quality, technology and comfort. I actually think that the way we treat our patients here in Brazil is quite similar as in Norway, although there are few differences based on some surgeon's preferences. I think that the main difference is as follows: the structure of that country (financial resources, education, organized health system, beside others) favors medical research. There are some examples: the Norwegian hip arthroplasty register has been functioning since 1987 and has more than 100,000 hip arthroplasties, with a compliance of more than 90% among the several hospitals of Norway. In Trondheim, a city with 250,000 inhabitants approximately, there is a partnership between the Orthopedic department of the St. Olavs Hospital and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology that enables the production of non cemented custom made femoral stems in a period of eight weeks.

Besides knowing the country and its health system, I had the opportunity to live together with residents and orthopedic surgeons of several countries in Europe, such as Portugal, Spain, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, Slovenia, Serbia, Turkey and Hungary. Finally, the life experience that I had in Norway was outstanding for sure, even that the period there had been so short. I hope that this kind of agreement between SBOT and EFORT continues in the future, so others Brazilian residents/orthopedic surgeons can have the same chance that I had. I will be always thankful to SBOT, NOA and EFORT.

Eduardo Zaniol Migon

Porto Alegre, June 8th, 2009.

*EFORT - Travelling Fellowship
Norway, Spring, 2009*



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The group of Fellowships in Bergen, Norway

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The President of the Norwegian Orthopedic Association, Dr Hebe Kvernmo, and Eduardo Migon in Oslo, Norway