

# Report - EFORT Travelling Fellowship

Belgium  
21 - 27 April 2013

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The week in Belgium started in Brussel. The first evening we were invited out to dinner by the two presidents. They gave a little introduction to our stay and we were introduced for each other and them. They talked amongst others about the historical background for the parting in one french and one dutch orthopedic organisation.

The next three days we spent at three different hospitals. The first two days everything was very well organised and we saw several interesting operations. Some of the professors were good at explaining during the operations. I spent the day in Ghent with the hand surgeon who was very good at showing and explaining what he did. At the orthopedic hospital in Leuven we were welcomed by dr Bellemann who showed us the hospital and invited us in on all their operations that day. All the doctors were nice and made us feel welcome. In the afternoon we were invited to their staff meeting for case discussion. In the evening we had dinner with several of their consultants, a very nice ending of the day.

The third day was less organised for the group I was in, but the surgeon who met us and had organised the day was nice and had made a relatively good program in short time it seemed. The focus that day was more on the administrative part of the department than the operative.

All three days ended with a dinner with the professors at the different hospitals. In Ghent they had also organised a tour around the old part of the city center. The restaurants were excellent, the atmosphere good and it was nice to speak to the doctors outside the hospitals.

The last two days we spent in Spa at their national congress. The program was interesting and also to see how they organise their congress. Some of the guest lecturers from other European and also African countries were especially interesting to hear.

I had a great week. It was interesting to meet the other fellows and learn how the education of orthopedic surgeons is organised in the different countries. I have made good friends with the other fellows. We will probably see each other again, maybe already next year in Slovenia if everything goes according to plan. We will, and are already keeping in touch on mail.

I want to thank you for arranging the travelling fellowship, it is a unique opportunity to exchange experiences and get to know orthopedic surgeons across Europe. I appreciate being given the opportunity to participate.