

Report - EFORT Travelling Fellowship

Belgium
21 - 27 April 2013

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I was very happy to learn that I would be representing my country in the EFORT Fellowship Programme held in Belgium. After the necessary preparations were complete and the arrangements were made, the first night I arrived at Brussels Prof Van Den Daelen and Prof Schuind gave us a warm welcome. During our first dinner I met other fellows coming from ten different European countries. After brief introductions we talked about our expectations from the one-week programme.



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It was planned that the first day of the programme would be spent in the Hospital UZ Gent under Prof Victor's supervision. After a short bus ride we were met by Prof Victor in the OR. Three operations were simultaneously taking place. Everyone chose a table according to their interests. I personally think it was a great experience to watch Prof Victor during knee surgery and receive answers to my questions. After the operation, all the fellows made presentations about themselves, their countries and their hospitals. A marvellous sightseeing tour with a guide was arranged for us in the evening. After having seen Gent's historical places the day ended with a delicious dinner.

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On the second day we made an early start. After packing up, we headed towards Leuven. After a short hospital tour with Prof Bellemans, we entered the OR. It was interesting to see the variety of cases. Every single one of us found an operation according to his/her interest. Following the operations, we attended the evening meeting with the whole hospital staff. Case presentations were made by staff members. It was interesting to see everyone; from the most inexperienced resident to the professors, express their opinions. In the evening after visiting perfectly preserved medieval hospital campus, we went to the Faculty Club normally reserved for faculty members where we had the pleasure to taste the special delicacies of Belgium cuisine

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It was a great opportunity for all the fellows to attend the Belgian Orthopedic Congress in Spa. We had the chance to meet orthopedic surgeons all around Belgium and share their experiences. It was a great experience for me to listen to the most up-to-date approaches to orthopedic infections from the experienced orthopedic surgeons.

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At the end of the congress we were all ready to return to our countries with fond memories. By the end of the week the 11 people, just colleagues at the beginning of the fellowship programme, had become close friends with promises of future regular meetings.

I'm grateful to everyone including those who presented us this opportunity, to EFORT which was in charge of flawless flow of the organisation, to all the professors who welcomed us to their hospitals and shared their experiences.

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