

Report - EFORT Travelling Fellowship

Greece
22 - 28 September 2013

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Udine, 29th September 2013

For the first time in my career I had the opportunity to participate in a Fellowship. It has been certainly a very busy and engaging week. I had the chance to know the reality of Greece and compare my experience with that of the other colleagues from the rest of Europe.

The Fellowship has included the visit to 5 hospitals, two of which located in Thessaloniki, one in Larissa and the remaining two in Athens.



The first stage was then Thessaloniki, an over 350,000 inhabitants city located in the north of the Country. This is the second Greek city by population after Athens and is considered the capital of Macedonia. Having the opportunity to visit two structures we were splitted into two groups, one at the University Hospital "Papanikolaou" and the second one at the General Hospital "Papageorgiou".

At the Hospital "Papanikolaou" we participated actively in the discussion of clinical cases presented by the local colleagues. At this point we joined the hospital work, some of us into the operating room, some in the outpatient clinics and some in the ward. In my case I visited the section of arthroscopy and sports traumatology, in which we discussed some cases of rotator cuff injuries and one case of anterior cruciate ligament lesion.

Finally, some lectures on shoulder replacement surgery and hand flexor tendons injuries were presented and discussed.

In the afternoon we went at the Hospital "Papageorgiou" where the colleagues of both hospitals presented some aspects of their experiences. I was particularly impressed by the work of Prof. Sayegh (Hospital "Papageorgiou"), who described his own personal way to reduce an anterior shoulder dislocation.

At the conclusion of the meeting, we had the opportunity to present our work, a research project or even our country.

On Tuesday, my group visited the Hospital "Papageorgiou", following the trauma path of the patients. We started from the emergency room, then we passed through the department of radiology before reaching the operating rooms.

Before leaving we discussed some of the cases recently treated and we took part in the ward round.

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Then it was time to move to Larissa.

During the journey from Thessaloniki we had the opportunity to visit the museum of Vergina, built on the ruins of Philip II and Alexander IV funerary monuments. It is a very well-structured archaeological site, rich of numerous relics.

Larissa is a city of about 150,000 inhabitants located in the center of the country, about halfway between Thessaloniki and Athens.

Here we visited the university hospital and the medical school, with an anatomy lab of excellent quality, where several cadaver labs have been held. During the morning Prof. Malizos presented the scientific activity of his department while all Fellows then presented the work of their departments or short scientific papers. After a lively discussion and a light lunch we left to Athens.

The journey to the capital was quite long and on arrival our hotel was in Kifisia, a quiet neighborhood in the outskirts of Athens.

The next day we visited the operating rooms of the Hospital "K.A.T.", where they were performing trauma and orthopaedic operations. The hospital was equipped with 14 operating rooms, of which 7 currently working.

In the afternoon we listened to local colleagues experiences, of which the one regarding the limb salvage surgery in severe cases was very interesting.

Finally we had some free time to take a walk in the center of Athens.

On the last day we were guests of the Orthopedic Research and Education Center "P. N. Soucacos" at the "Attikon" University General Hospital. Here we followed some lectures, of which that of Prof. Papagelopoulos about reconstruction after tumor surgery and that of Prof. Mastrokalos about the treatment of anterior cruciate ligament injuries in the skeletally immature patients were the most interesting. It was therefore a very busy morning, concluded with a lively discussion on computer-assisted total knee replacement.

An unexpected change of program allowed us to visit in the afternoon the Athens Acropolis and its museum. It has been probably the best way to finish off the week, a unique opportunity especially for those who, as me, have never been to Athens before.



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From the logistical point of view everything was perfect. First class hotels, great food and the transport availability have made this week even more enjoyable.

Coming to a conclusion, it has been a very interesting experience, probably not as much for the purely scientific point of view, but more for the comparison with other European Countries.

It has been a great opportunity to meet each other and lay the foundations for lasting friendships and collaborations across national borders.

I take the opportunity of this report to thank EFORT for the wonderful chance to participate in this Travelling Fellowship. I want also to thank the Greek-speaking Fellows that made everything easier for us.

Kind regards,
Francesco Mancuso

