

Report - EFORT Travelling Fellowship

Greece
22 - 28 September 2013

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Introduction

We were both delighted to be selected to represent the two German Societies (Orthopaedic and Trauma) for the Fall Travelling Fellowship to Greece 2013.

Prof. Givissis Panayotis and Dr. Papavasiliou Kyriakos invited us to a welcome dinner at the fabulous Makedonia Palace Hotel in Thessaloniki where we met with most of the travelling fellows. We were 14 fellows total with representatives from Greece, Austria, Ireland, Denmark, Finland, Hungary and several other nations.

Day 1+2 Thessaloniki

On our first two days, we split the group in half to visit both Papanikolaou University Hospital and Papageorgiou General Hospital.



We went to Papageorgiou hospital first and received a very warm welcome by Prof. Ioannis Kyrkos, Professor Sayegh and their team. After a tour of the premises we had some really good case presentations and got to take part in the ward round.

In the afternoon the seven fellows that had visited Papanikolaou rejoined us for lectures by the staff of both hospitals and presentations by us fellows.

On Tuesday we left the hospital straight after lunch and headed to Vergina where we got a private tour of the underground museum. This amazing place was constructed to protect the royal tombs of King Philip II and Alexander IV.

Thanks to our wonderful guide and her inexhaustible knowledge, this was far more than a visit to the museum but a truly memorable life history lesson. We were particularly impressed by the well preserved Ionic frieze depicting a hunting scene with Philip and Alexander and the Rape of Persephone.

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Upon arrival in Larissa we found a little gift bag in our rooms, containing an embroidered baseball cap and tie with the university's logo. Very sweet, however, the two female fellows are still racking their brains whether to wear it as a bandana or rather go for the "boyfriend-look".

Professor Malizos and Professor Hantes than took us to this really beautiful and unique restaurant and wine bar for dinner. Excellent food and wine as well as great hospitality turned out to be the leitmotif of our visit.

On the way home us fellows found yet another way to mingle and ended up in a very cozy bar.

Day 3 Larissa

This day was dedicated to scientific presentations by us fellows. After a very compelling welcome speech by the ingenious Professor Malizos we got the opportunity to present some of our research and engaged in very lively discussions on treatment algorithms in our various institutions.

The snooze on the rather long bus journey to Athens made up for the slightly short night and we were all looking forward to exploring scenic Athens.

Day 4+5 Athens

On our first day in Athens we visited The General Hospital of Attica "KAT". In the morning we observed various surgical procedures including hip arthroplasty by Professor Macheras who explained his innovative surgical approach in great detail.

In the afternoon we met in the Amphitheater to hear some very outstanding presentations by the staff. Particularly fascinating was a talk on the Papineau technique.



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On our last day in Athens we visited Attikon University General Hospital. We were met by Dr. Vasileios Kontogeorgakos who gave us a quick tour of the Orthopaedic Research and Education Center which includes a gait analysis and biomechanics lab and several other top-notch facilities.

Thereafter followed several lectures on topics ranging from spine surgery to terrible triad injuries of the elbow.

A few days ago we had already mutinied against another full day of scientific program since most of us visited Athens for the first time and wanted to at least see some of the historic treasures.

Our hosts kindly granted our wish and we got to spend the afternoon with a fantastic guided tour of the new Akropolis museum and the site itself.

Our Goodbye Dinner was at Kuzina restaurant on a roof top terrace that offered a breathtaking view of the beautifully lit Akropolis by night.

Once again the food and wine were exquisite and we got another chance to make contact with our hosts and continue the morning's heated discussion on bias in research and navigated knee surgery in general.

Some of us really became friends during this amazing week and thanks to social media we can easily stay in contact and will probably meet again at one conference or another.

We both learned a lot during this trip and highly recommend the fellowship to our co-residents in both our departments.

A big thank you to EFORT for organizing this fellowship and to our Greek hosts for their unparalleled hospitality, great clinical and research expertise and honest interest in us fellows and our experience in the field of Orthopaedic and Trauma care.