

Report - EFORT Travelling Fellowship

Greece
22 - 28 September 2013

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Dear EFORT,

I would like to thank you for giving me the chance to participate in the Fall Travelling Fellowship in Greece which was a great experience for me.

It was really interesting to visit Greek hospitals and learning about the function and the scientific program of different orthopaedic clinics. I also had the opportunity to meet and to exchange knowledge and experience with fellows of different countries. So it was possible to compare and to check the level of my knowledge and also to discuss in detail about the training program of Orthopaedic residence in many European countries. Visiting different hospitals and meeting interesting high skilled and trained doctors I could discuss with them many scientific issues of my special interest. The visiting doctors were very friendly and they were glad to discuss with each one of us and to give answers to our questions.

Regarding the scientific program I think that the presentations we were asked to give were a good opportunity to get known with each other and to discuss different scientific subjects. The subjects of the presentations that were presented to us by the Greek doctors were quite interesting but I was expecting to hear more things about research and current trends or debatable issues in orthopaedics. Some lectures were just theoretic and academic.

Greece has a great history and it was really great that I had the opportunity to visit the museum of Vergina and Akropolis and to learn many interesting things in detail about the ancient Greek civilization. I would also like to thank and congratulate the organizing committee for the accommodation and the meals. The only sad thing was that the time schedule was quite stiff. For instance the third day of the fellowship we left from Thessaloniki and Papageorgiou Hospital at 2.30 in the evening, we visited Vergina Museum and we arrived to the Hotel in Larissa at 7.55 pm and at 8.30 pm we should be at the lobby to go for dinner. The next day we had to wake up early and to make presentations without having time to prepare ourselves. Next day we had only few hours to visit and stay in Larissa University Orthopaedic Clinic which seemed to be really interesting and attractive and I would like to spend more time and to have more "action" there. After an exhausting trip to Athens with a small and uncomfortable bus we arrived to the hotel. I think that mini busses are really nice for transportation in big cities but not proper for travelling. The program in Athens was quite flexible and we had the chance to visit the center of the city and go for shopping and buy some souvenirs and also the next day it was really great to visit Acropolis.

I would suggest to reduce the number of participants and to add a couple of days so that the Fellows may have more time in order to prepare their presentations and have some free time for sightseeing and amuse themselves. Half of a day in a hospital is not enough for training or even for getting known each other. At least one day training in each clinic is necessary. We could travel in the morning and do sightseeing in the afternoon of the same day to the city we are visiting. If we were fewer we could have better training during this fellowship. Fourteen Fellows in one clinic is not easy to get into surgical theaters or visit the outpatient clinics or attend the program of a clinic especially when time is not enough. Please add more action to the program. There are too many lectures and lots of theory and very few surgical operations. We had the opportunity to visit surgical theaters only in KAT and only for a morning.

I would like to thank you once again for the honor to attend the Fall Travelling Fellowship in Greece. I wish all the best for the organization of the next Fellowship.

Yours sincerely
Dr George Konstantinidis