

Report - EFORT Travelling Fellowship

Greece
22 – 28 September 2013

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From September 22nd till 28th 2013 I was given the opportunity to take part in the EFORT Travelling Fellowship in Greece together with 14 other colleagues from 13 different countries around Europe. During our stay in Greece we have visited several orthopaedic university hospitals in three different cities: Thessaloniki, Larissa and Athens. The week spent in Greece enabled me to see how orthopaedics is practised in a different country and also to get experience in how a different training system works.

In addition to learn about Greek orthopaedics, the EFORT Travelling Fellowship lets you meet colleagues from around Europe who are at a similar stage in their careers. For me this was unique experience to have case discussions and to share ideas regarding the particular treatment of patients. We have discussed and compared position of orthopaedic surgeons among European countries. This was of my special interest because Croatia joined EU last July and thus enabled my further Fellowships in EU countries more easier.

The logistical and sightseeing part of the Fellowship was organized in that way that we were able to see a lot of Athens fascinating history. The most of the lectures were interesting and very well presented. Speakers presented their own clinical experience, attitudes and scientific research results.

I had the opportunity to discover a fascinating country in terms of history, culture, development, health system and landscapes. All together it was a wonderful seven days' stay in Greece. At every turn we were greeted by hospitality. All our hosts did their best to make our stay maximally enjoyable.

I must express my deepest gratitude to Croatian Orthopaedic Society of Croatian Medical Association for allowing me to be the EFORT Autumn Travelling Fellow 2013. I would also like to heartily thank to the EFORT, Alpha Hirt, HAOST, and everyone who welcomed us into their hospitals.

This whole experience has made my perspectives wider and I would recommend the Travelling Fellowship to every resident.

At the end, my special thanks go to Dr. Stamatis Papadakis who made my visit to Athens unforgettable.

Sincerely,

Josip Vlaić, Croatia