

# REPORT Autumn Travelling Fellowship

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We first all met in Rotterdam over a friendly welcome drink with our first hosts : Duncan Meuffels and Olav van der Jagt. We discovered bitterballen, a dutch speciality which became the common theme of our week... On the evening, we had dinner at the Euromast with Pr Verhaar and Pr Koot, who offered us a pair of wooden shoes with the acronym of the Dutch orthopaedic society. Our hosts had scheduled for us a busy list, covering a wide variety of pathologies, from upper limb to spine.

On the first 4 days we were lucky to be accompanied everywhere by Olav, our « godfather ».

We discovered several hospitals : Erasmus MC hospital in Rotterdam, LUMC in Leiden, VUMC and AMC in Amsterdam. In all of them I was very impressed by the modern architecture and design, by all the accomodations invented for patients confort and by the will of continuous self evaluation and improvement.

In each department, we met the clinical and research team. I was very interested by the scientific lectures covering all the fields of biomechanic and bioengineering research. Clinical talks were always the beginning point of lively debates among ourselves and the hosts, comparing practices in different countries. I remember some about the interest of registers and the limits of evidence based medecine...

In a relaxed atmosphere we presented ourselves and our national orthopaedic society. It gave us the opportunity to discover some little known countries like Estonia or Croatia. Afternoon and evening outings were a great way to get to know each other and after only two days we felt as old friends.

As a conclusion, it was a professionally, culturally and socially enriching experience. It gave me the motivation to develop more research projects and develop international collaborations. As we shared all our photographs we realized that strong friendships were built during our travel... I look forward to meet them again, in international congresses or in our respective departments.

I would like to send my sincere thanks to our hosts, to EFORT, to the Dutch Orthopaedic Society and to the SOFCOT, which allowed me to participate to this wonderful experience.