



### Submitted to:

**Reported by: Nihat Demirhan Demirkıran M.D.**

**Introduction:** I am fifth year resident in Dokuz Eylül University Hospital, İzmir, Turkey. I applied for EFORT Spring Travelling Fellowship via our orthopedic society and after the decision of our local council, I was nominated to represent my country in Vienna. I am extremely grateful that I have participated in such a comprehensive fellowship, which enabled me to learn, observe and participate in Austrian orthopedic practice. It is a unique opportunity to meet with other fellows and to share our ideas, experiences. And also to make good friends from different countries.

**Detailed description of the fellowship** (please feel free to include photographs if you wish):

After receiving the acceptance letter from EFFORT organization, Turkish Orthopedic Society reached me and handled all the procedures related to my flight to Vienna. I arrived in Hotel Regina easily by following the detailed instructions included in our program. As I checked over our heavy program, I considered my first day as the only opportunity to see around in Vienna so I took a small city tour to the city center, Albertina and Belvedere Palace; all of which were in walking distance to our hotel.





That evening we met with all fellows and Prof Nehrer welcomed us and we visited Lorenz Surgery. It was a great experience to see that important values of the history of orthopedics are preserved and exhibited in such a proud way.



The second day of our stay started with a very early breakfast and we walked to the AKH with our contact person Gerhard Hobusch, who showed admirable devotion and responsibility to take care of our safety and comfort. With its 22 floors and enormous building structure the institution is a thrilling place even from the outside and after a brief presentation about the history of this clinic introducing world famous Professors Lorenz, Chiari and Kotz; my excitement grew exponentially. I am very interested in orthopedic oncology, and it was a great pleasure for me to listen lectures about musculoskeletal tumors from Prof. Windhager. We also had the chance to enter the OR participate in different kind of surgeries depending on our interest. It was very well thought to give all the fellows the operation schedule and let us free to choose among them. After a busy day, we were very warmly hosted for dinner at Schweizerhaus, Prater. We were very welcome by the whole AKH staff who attended the dinner.

Next day we visited Orthopedic Hospital Speising, which is the largest orthopedic hospital in Austria with its 280 beds. They had prepared us a very attractive program for us including live surgeries and sawbone workshops besides presentations. Seeing the superior facilities they have such as gait analysis laboratory was very impressive.

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Austria, April 2016

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At the end of our training in Speising we were transported to Graz by a very comfortable private bus. By the way, we all appreciated our responsible and careful driver. The organization committee was very considerate about our safe and comfortable journey. We arrived in Hotel Daniels Graz and we were invited to a traditional Austrian restaurant Der Steirer for dinner. Prof. Sadoghi were waiting for us there and we had a very detailed conversation on Austrian orthopedic education and academic system. Next morning we went to Graz University Hospital where we had a very loaded program of presentations about arthroplasty and oncology. In the afternoon Prof. Leithner and Dr. Bergovec made very interesting presentations on musculoskeletal tumors and shared their remarkable experience of the hospital with over 500 tumor surgeries per year. Later a guided city tour was waiting us and we all liked seeing Graz accompanied with our tour guide and hosts from Graz University. After a long walk through the cities important landmarks, we reached the clock tower and enjoyed the panorama up from there. Finally, our tour ended in a famous steakhouse ElGauchito where we had great meat and we all spent an amusing night.

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On Thursday, we left Graz with good memories and headed to Linz. Prof. Böhler welcomed us and after a session of presentations, we were on the streets of Linz, again with our tour guide. We had our dinner at Schlossberg restaurant on the coast of Danube. Prof. Böhler took care of all the fellows one by one and I was so impressed to see the value he gave us and his effort to talk to each and every one of us all night long. I will always remember and respect his exemplary attitude to the fellows.



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We spent the next morning also in Linz and had lectures on ankle, hip and shoulder arthroplasty. Divided into three groups of five fellows, we also attended operations there.



After lunch, we were transferred to Krems. Prof. Nehrer was waiting for us there and following presentations we had a tour in Danube University laboratories and learned about the researches they make. That was the final of our training program and we returned to Vienna for a last dinner together. It was really hard to end the night and say goodbye to my friends. But in the end, we all felt happy to meet each other and hoped to see each other again with a reason.

### **Conclusion:**

My experience in Austria has taught me a lot about the Austrian academic and orthopedic practice. I am extremely grateful to EFORT that I have participated in such a comprehensive fellowship, which enabled me to learn, observe and participate. In the final year of my residency with a lot of questions and unclarity about future in my mind; it was a unique opportunity to meet with other fellows who are in the same position with me and share our ideas, experiences and future plans. Besides it is wonderful to make good friends from different countries.