

REPORT

Spring Travelling Fellowship

Ireland, June 2018

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Introduction: I had the privilege to represent Switzerland at the 2018 EFORT Spring Travelling Fellowship. Organized by the Irish Orthopedic Association, it consisted of a six-day trip across Ireland with stops in Dublin, Belfast and finally Portlaoise to attend the Irish Orthopaedic Association (IOA) annual meeting.

Detailed description of the fellowship:

We arrived on Monday June 11th at Dublin. We met Ms. Emer Agnew and Dr. Gary O'Toole in the evening for an introduction and briefing about our fellowship week. After a short presentation on our background by each of us, a dinner was planned at the hotel. The residents of the Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital joined us and made us feel very welcome to Ireland. This also was the perfect opportunity to meet our respective roommates.

On Tuesday morning, a coach drove us to Musgrave Park Hospital in Belfast. Dr. David Limb welcomed us to the fellowship in the name of the EFORT. After an introduction by Dr. Seamus O'Brien on the importance to create an outcome unit to enhance patient outcomes, Dr. Brian Mockford presented the current state of orthopaedic training in Northern Ireland. Prof. David Beverland gave us several lectures about his favorite research topics (including Aspirin for VTE prophylaxis and the restoration of hip biomechanics in THA). Everyone in the room was impressed by his passion for orthopaedics and his willingness to share his knowledge on joint replacement! The evening dinner was another opportunity to learn more about Prof. David Beverland, Belfast and of course the other Fellows.





Wednesday was dedicated to trauma (pelvis, lower and upper extremity, foot and ankle). The lectures given by the different consultants of the Royal Victoria Hospital (Drs. John Barr, Pooler Archbold, David Kealey, Martyn Neil, David Swain, Andrew Johnston, Kyle McDonald and Michael McMullan) were entertaining and enhanced the local trauma practice. In the afternoon, a visit at the Titanic museum was on the program, one of the top attractions in Belfast. It was than time to head back to Dublin.

Thursday morning started with some theatre time at Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital. A lumbar discectomy and a TKA were performed in the theatres I visited. The operating surgeons and Prof John O'Burnye took time to answer all our questions. After lunch Dr. Gary O'Toole gave us an inspiring lecture on osseous sarcomas, transforming a difficult topic into an entertaining speech by enhancing the historical facts behind the current treatment concepts. After a visit to the Guinness museum including graduation from the Guinness academy, we took a coach to Johnny Fox pub, "the highest pub in Ireland", located on the hills surrounding Dublin. The highlight of the evening was of course the Hooley dance show.





After one more night in Dublin, Friday and Saturday were spent at IOA annual meeting, which took place at the Heritage Hotel in Portlaoise. Especially the shoulder and elbow session that I chose to attend (ISES parallel meeting) had some high quality lectures. The presence of Dr. Mark A. Mighell from the Florida Orthopaedic Institute was also one of the highlights of the week. It was also a nice occasion to relax and enjoy the location as to share a drink around a world cup soccer game. Finally the fellowship ended at the gala dinner of the IOA.



Conclusion: This week in Ireland was high above my expectations. The high quality lectures, the Irish landscapes, culture and hospitality were a wonderful experience. But I think the major advantage of this type of fellowship, was to share the experience with the other Fellows from all over Europe. I will definitely keep a good memory of the time shared with all of them, and look forward to cross their paths again sometimes in the near future.

Finally I want to thank Ms. Emer Agnew and Dr. Gary O'Toole for the great organization, as well as Swiss Orthopaedics and the head of my department, Prof Alain Farron, who made this great experience possible for me.