



## **ESGO Traveling Fellowship Fellows Report**

### **Name of Fellow: Derman BASARAN**

Position at Home Institution: Gynecologic oncology fellow in third year.

Home Institution (full address): Hacettepe University Medical Faculty, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division of Gynecologic Oncology, Sıhhiye, ANKARA/TURKEY

Head of the Department: Professor G. Serdar GUNALP, MD

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### **Name of Mentor at Host Institution: Prof. David CIBULA, MD., PhD.**

Position at Host Institution: Visiting gynecologic oncology fellow

Institution (full address): Oncogynecological Center, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 1<sup>st</sup> Medical Faculty and General Faculty Hospital in Prague, Apolinarska 18, Prague 2, PRAGUE/CZECH REPUBLIC

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### **Dates of Fellowship: 05 January 2014 – 05 March 2014**

### **Detailed description on Teaching received:**

I am very grateful to ESGO Training and Education Committee for granting me for a visit to Oncogynecology Center in Prague Between 5<sup>th</sup> of January and 5<sup>th</sup> of March in 2014 under the guidance of Professor David Cibula.

This institution is a world renowned, high volume tertiary referral center with more than 700 new gynecological cancers per year.

In my first day in the clinic, I was greeted by the department secretary Mrs.Kupcova and gynecologic oncology fellow Dr.Roman Kocian at 7:30 a.m. After a few minutes, Professor Cibula came in and welcomed. Then, we went to the general meeting room of the Obstetrics and Gynecology department where I was announced to the members of the faculty and hospital staff. After that meeting, Professor Cibula personally introduced the gynecological oncology department, operation rooms, outpatient clinics, colposcopy and chemotherapy rooms. Then, I was told to check the surgical operation list for the weekly program and I noticed that I was appointed to the second surgery of the day as a second assistant. Before getting into

the operation theatre, we made a meeting with Professor Cibula and Assoc.Professor Jiri Slama about a research project on oncological outcomes of less radical surgery in cervical cancer. It was very encouraging for me to be included in that research project as a part of the team in the very beginning of my visit. After that visit, Dr.Slama prepared a weekly schedule for me and showed me how I could benefit this fellowship program besides assisting surgeries. I tried to follow that program while I was not in the operation room.

What mostly impressed me in this clinic was the organization of the center and division of the labor. Every faculty member had different tasks including clinical and translational research, surgery, outpatient and inpatient clinical duties, educational tasks and all of these were tuned in a great harmony.

During my stay of eight weeks, I assisted in 30 open surgical operations. In very crude terms, this high number of oncological cases was more than we have in my home institution. And also the quality and the radicality of the procedures that I attended in this visit was quite remarkable which included more than five bowel resections, 3 diaphragms strippings, lots of systematic lymphadenectomies and 2 exentorative procedures. Details of this procedures and patient protocol numbers were recorded in my log-book and are going to be presented to ESGO individual accreditation committee after completion of my fellowship.

For my point of view, another and a very distinguishing feature of this clinic was the use of expert sonographic staging of gynecological tumors. As a clinician who works with decent radiologists having great skills on CT and MRI in my home institution, I was surprised to see that one could achieve such accurate radiological definitions of disease using real time ultrasonography. Of course, this person was Dr.Daniella Fischerova, one of the pioneers of gyne-oncologic ultrasound examination, but it was the methodology and the reproducibility of their ultrasound technique which renders it so unique. I had the opportunity to attend expert sonographic examinations in Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings. Dr.Fischerova was so kind to let me repeat the ultrasound study while she was dealing with the patients' detailed reports. While she was struggling with lots of patients she never refused to answer any of my questions even they were so primitive

Tumor boards on Wednesdays provided me a great opportunity to acquire skills for patient selection for clinical trials. In my home institution, we also have weekly multidisciplinary tumor boards but I felt that we have to use these meetings for not only deciding the most appropriate treatment for the patients but also for guiding patients to get into the clinical trials. Oncogynecological center of Prague was a very active center for clinical trials and every faculty member was running one or two clinical studies with a well balance of commercial and non-commercial ones.

Every week, I had the chance to make a brief meeting with Professor Cibula about the research topic that we were working on it. These times were also invaluable moments for me to talk with Professor Cibula and learn from him about leadership and being a clinician-scientist. I think he is a great role model for fellows and junior gyne-oncologists and knowing him was one of the most important gains of this visit.

**Goals accomplished**

- A. Assisting in radical oncological procedures
- B. Active participation in tumor boards
- C. Observation of expert oncological sonography
- D. Getting familiar with patient selection to clinical trials
- E. Expanding personal international network in gynecological oncology society

**Achievement in clinical practice:**

- A. Improved surgical anatomy and knowledge
- B. Improved knowledge of surgical instruments including efficient use of bipolar forceps
- C. Improved skills on expert oncological sonography

**Presentations eg. at seminar or meetings:**

None

**Research performed and outcome:**

We performed a systematic literature search on less radical procedures in treatment of cervical cancer. Data is currently been processed by biostatisticians and a draft of the article will be available for further editing in one month. Anticipated publication of the paper is June 2014.

**Publications:**

None yet

**Problems encountered with a critical evaluation of the fellowship experience as a whole:**

There were no major problems in the fellowship experience as a whole. Tumor boards were done in Czech language, however, there was always someone available to translate. And after sometime you became familiar with most of the terms as they are mostly international. City of Prague is very beautiful, safe and have a wonderful public transport system and it was easy for me to get in to the hospital. Besides, you can use the dormitory of Charles University if you don't want to rent an apartment.

I have one minor suggestion for the host institution: "Letting the travelling fellows to operate as primary surgeons could make this visit more beneficial in practical terms."

**Future plan on returning to home:**

My three year gynecologic oncology fellowship program will end in September 2014. During this limited time period I will try to practice my surgical skills and I am planning to concentrate on my finishing thesis on frozen section of endometrial cancers. After completing my fellowship training, I am going to start my two year compulsory state service as a consultant gynecologic oncologist, probably in a major teaching hospital. When I start my job as a gyne-oncology specialist, I would like to use my skills as a clinician-scientist and I don't want to

move away from research. After finishing my compulsory state service, I will search for permanent junior faculty positions in academic centers.

**Overall evaluation and comment of the fellowship:**

This visit was completely a win-win event for me. I gained experienced, I met the experts in their home institution, and I expanded my personal network. I think every European gynecological oncology fellow must spend at least one month in another ESGO accredited center during their education. No matter how excellent is your home institution, spending sometime in another onco-gyne center would definitely expand your knowledge and I think it is a must. In the future, ESGO may consider making these visits obligatory for individual accreditation.

In

Date : 13.03.2014

Applicant's name (in capital letters) **DERMAN BASARAN**

Signature:



**Enjoy learning with ESGO!**