ESGO Traveling Fellowship
Fellows Report

Name of Fellow: Stamatios Petousis
Position at Home Institution: Academic Fellow
Home Institution (full address): 2nd Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
Head of the Department: Associate Professor Konstantinos Dinas
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Name of Mentor at Host Institution: Dr. Frederic Guyon
Position at Host Institution: Guest Fellow
Institution (full address): Gynaecologic Oncology Unit, Department of Surgery, Institut Bergonie, Bordeaux, France
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Dates of Fellowship: May-July 2019

Detailed description on Teaching received:

I had the honor and opportunity to receive teaching on both theoretical and practical level. I participated in patient consultations under the surveillance and guidance of my mentor Dr. Frederic Guyon, having the possibility to get familiar with both preoperative and postoperative management of oncological patients, discussing and being demonstrated the practical implementation of ESGO guidelines in daily clinical practice. Furthermore, I participated as assistant and/or surgeon in all kinds of numerous gynecologic oncology procedures including debulking for ovarian surgery, both open and laparoscopic simple hysterectomy, open radical hysterectomy, open and laparoscopic annexectomy, pelvic and para-aortic lymphadenectomy, vulvectomy and inguinal lymphadenectomy, as well as diagnostic laparoscopy, hysteroscopy and cystoscopy. I had the chance to be demonstrated the performance of Hyperthermic Intraoperative Chemotherapy procedure for patients treated for pseudomyxomas and mesotheliomas under the guidance of Dr. Guyon, which was one of the most impressive points

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of my education. I was thoroughly taught the really impressive technique of retroperitoneal para-aortic lymphadenectomy which I had the chance to perform myself in regards with staging for both endometrial and cervical cancer. Sentinel node procedures for endometrial, cervical and vulvar cancer were also demonstrated to me. I had the unique chance to participate in a vaginal trachylectomy procedure under the guidance of Professor Denis Querleu, ESGO President, in a cervical cancer patient looking for fertility preservation. I had the opportunity to be demonstrated by Dr. Guyon all other surgical interventions potentially enrolled in a debulking procedure such as omentectomy, enterectomy, splenectomy, resection of diaphragm and peritoneum. Another exceptional point of my education was my participation in the marvelous multidisciplinary meeting (named as RCP in the institute Bergonie) where I had the chance to participate actively in the clinical approach of oncology patients regarding chemotherapy, radiotherapy as well as evaluation of imaging, anatomopathological, and cytological examinations. Finally, I had the chance in parallel to be involved also in breast surgery procedures, namely tumorectomies, mastectomies, sentinel node and axillary node dissection in conjunction with Breast Cancer Unit of Institut as well in the relative RCP meetings.

Goals accomplished:
My 3-month education in Institut Bergonie indeed offered me various profits on all levels of gynaecologic oncology, honestly superior to those expected for a 3-month staying. The main goals accomplished may actually be summarized in two main points. The primary predominant goal was the education on retroperitoneal space. I feel having the mastership and knowledge of all related surgical skills regarding the approach of retroperitoneal area, involving recognition of relative anatomic structures, preparation of ureter as well as pelvic and para-aortic lymphadenectomy. The second goal accomplished was the detailed and thorough education on the theory of gynaecologic oncology, enrolling preoperative clinical approach, various therapeutic options, hospitalization of oncology patients, postoperative follow-up, multidisciplinary cooperation with oncologists, radiotherapists, nuclear medicine doctors and radiologists.

Achievement in clinical practice:
As previously mentioned, performance of numerous open and laparoscopic pelvic and para-aortic lymphadenectomies, both intraperitoneal and retroperitoneal, active assistance in debulking for ovarian cancer and therefore in all related surgical interventions, practical education on laparoscopy-related technical issues, participation and demonstration of Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy procedure as well as participation in rare procedures such as vaginal trachylectomy of Querleu type A may be outlined as the main achievements in clinical practice.

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Presentations eg. at seminar or meetings:
I had the chance to participate in an exceptional meeting organized by Institut Bergonie regarding treatment of sarcopeny in oncological patients. Furthermore, current performance of various scientific projects that I am currently involved may result in future presentations in international meetings.

Research performed and outcome:
I was given the opportunity to be involved in two exceptional scientific projects which are currently being performed in the Institut Bergonie, the one related with the preoperative assessment of sarcomas, the other with the potential predictive impact of PET scan on response of ovarian cancer patients on neoadjuvant chemotherapy. My active participation in these projects has already resulted to authorship of a draft that is to be submitted and to the current performance of another which may be finalized in the upcoming weeks.

Publications:
Publications based on the aforementioned scientific protocols may actually be achieved in next months.

Problems encountered with a critical evaluation of the fellowship experience as a whole:
There is absolutely no problem to clarify. I would like to mention the assistance provided to me on scientific, social and personal level firstly from my mentor Dr. Guyon as well as from all medical and nursing staff of Institut Bergonie.

Future plan on returning to home:
Knowledge obtained during this 3-month staying may inevitably help me to advance the level of my clinical, scientific and mainly surgical practice regarding oncological patients of my country. Therefore, I think that the goal of my 3-month fellowship, which is the expansion of my scientific knowledge on gynaecological oncology, has been totally achieved.
Overall evaluation and comment of the fellowship:
First of all, I would sincerely like to express my gratitude to my mentor and Head of Gynaecologic Oncology Unit Dr. Frederic Guyon for my acceptance in Institut Bergonie as well as for all his assistance, personal, clinical and academic interest as well as for the exceptional theoretical and clinical education he provided me. I would sincerely like to thank ESGO for the opportunity to be trained in Institut Bergonie with ESGO fellowship, which was really supportive on both financial and academic level. I would like to thank Professor Querleu for the honor to participate in his surgical interventions and acquire his theoretical and surgical guidance on gynaecologic oncology. I inevitably recommend Institut Bergonie for training in Gynaecologic Oncology, as it is an oncology center concentrated on the multidisciplinary treatment of cancer with numerous advanced interventions performed, characterized by an actively developing educational mentality. My final conclusion would be that this fellowship was for me totally contributive, successful and promising for the continuation of my clinical and academic activity on Gynaecologic Oncology.

Institut Bergonie, Bordeaux, France

31/07/2019

STAMATIOS PETOUSIS

Enjoy learning with ESGO!

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