EUROPEAN UROLOGICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME (EUSP)

[3-month visit: 1st September to 31st November 2016]

Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE)
Hamburg, Germany
Introduction - Purpose of the visit

Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendor (UKE) is a high-volume centre for reconstructive urology. In terms of the number of operative procedures, UKE is the world's largest prostate cancer (PCa) clinic. Its private clinic, the Martini Clinic, specialises in PCa.

UKE is located in the German city of Hamburg, the second largest city in the country and the eight largest in the European Union. UKE currently has more than 9,000 employees – including 2,300 doctors – and 1,542 beds. Each year, approximately 86,000 inpatients and 269,000 outpatients are treated, in addition to more than 50,000 emergencies.

The Director of the Urology Department at UKE is Prof. Margit Fisch who is an excellent urologist and an overall wonderful person. She manages the clinic well. She is interested in reconstructive urology, paediatric urology and also all the urologic procedures performed in the clinic except for PCa.

UKE’s Martini Clinic is where procedures regarding PCa are performed. This clinic has four da Vinci® robotic systems. Around 10 RRPs (radical retropubic prostatectomies) are performed daily, half of which are robotic surgeries and the other half, open surgeries.
I am interested in reconstructive urology and PCa. The experience and know-how I have acquired from UKE and the Martini Clinic were incredibly helpful to me. I express my gratitude to the EAU scholarship programme and the professors.

I began my scholarship 1st of September 2016. I remember that the weather in Hamburg at that time was very nice. It was the first time I have met Mrs. Silke Merzenich of the International Office. She helped me a lot and I am grateful for that. I have also met Dr. Luis Kluth at the polyclinic. He showed me around and acquainted me with the rules and regulations of the clinic.

Every day at around 7:30 AM, I would attend a short meeting then have breakfast together with the rest at the hospital café. Afterwards, I would head to the operation room to observe reconstructive and uro- oncology cases.

Arif AYDIN, MD, FEBU
The daily morning meeting

Luis (right) and I. Luis is an excellent friend.
UKE usually has two operation rooms but at one time, there were three operation rooms used. And almost always, one room is dedicated for reconstructive urology. This was beneficial for me because I saw a lot of procedures such as buccal mucosa urethroplasty, proximal hypospadias, penile urethral stricture, epispadias surgery, SIS corporoplasty, artificial sphincter involvement, gender transformation, etc. I also observed uro-oncology cases which involved radical cystectomy and ileal loop (also Miles procedure, double pouch diversion), partial nephrectomy and radical nephrectomy.

Operation room in UKE

Epispadias surgery

Between 24th October and 4th November, I worked at the Martini Clinic. The clinic specialises in PCa but they also perform procedures such as MRI fusion biopsy, brachytherapy, high intensity focused
ultrasound (HIFU), etc.

I learned a lot and I also had fun. I joined the staff during Oktoberfest, attended parties celebrating PhD completion, special dinners and hanging out with my friends. I’ve met Gampo from Indonesia and Ilia from Macedonian both whom I have developed good friendship with like I did with Luis. I would like to send a special thank-you to Prof. Graefen, Prof. Haese, Prof Stauber and Prof. Tilki.

Hamburg became a memorable place to me. I would like to build a reconstructive unit at my university based on the experience that I gained. I would like to wholeheartedly thank all the staff of the department of urology of UKE and the EUSP Office for giving me this priceless opportunity!