A remarkable training experience Down Under
Trainee Week in Australia provides key urology lessons

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Thanks to a cooperation between the European Association of Urology (EAU) and the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand (USANZ), two EAU junior members who passed the European Board of Urology exam were selected to participate at the Australian “Trainee Week 2009” held in Perth, Western Australia from November 21 to 26 last year.

With my participation in this training programme, I felt very grateful and honoured to be one of the young European urologists chosen to go ‘Down Under’ and directly learn something about the Australian way of urological education.

The Trainee Week is an event organised yearly by the USANZ and is compulsory for all urological residents of Australia and New Zealand in their third, fourth and fifth year of training (so-called SET 3, SET 4 and SET 5 registrars – SET means Surgical Educational Training).

The whole training period for urologists lasts six years. After acceptance to the programme, the first two years (SET 1 and 2) are mainly dedicated to general surgery. Afterwards, the specific training in urology starts (SET 3-5) and at the end of the fourth year the registrars have to undergo their final exams. Throughout this part of their training, the registrars rotate between several hospitals in the state where they are working. After finishing SET 4, all registrars go for at least one year of fellowship either overseas or to another Australian state before they go for at least one year of fellowship either overseas or to another Australian state (SET 6) before they become urologic consultants.

During the well organised and structured Trainee Week all major aspects of urology were covered by prominent urology experts and faculty covered in a very short time the most important aspects of urology. In Australia, the principal or key participants were the SET 3 and SET 4 and SET 5 residents. SET means Surgical Education Training (SET). Under the supervision of the consultants and the SET 5 trainees, the younger registrars were responsible for presenting the current topics in clinical urological practice.

Experts from the sub-specialties, however, were responsible for presenting the current topics in clinical urological practice.

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