

ACPGBI Travelling Fellowship Final Report

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To be the travelling fellow of the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland for me is not only a great privilege and honour but it is also a unique opportunity to attend the annual scientific meeting this year as well as to visit some of the leading coloproctological centers. Receiving the confirmation letter for my approval as travelling fellow was an extraordinary feeling. My journey started with an incredible week spent at the St. Mark's Hospital. When I arrived at the hospital I was accepted under the team of Mr. Janindra Warusavitarne. The week that I spent in the hospital was extremely useful for me. I had the possibility to observe a lot of cases, related to IBD, coloproctology and colorectal cancers. During the week I saw a lot of laparoscopic cases as well as VAAFT surgery. For a young surgeon, the feeling to be in a hospital like this, is always hard to be summarised in a couple of sentences. Mr. Warusavitarne was a really friendly, freehearted and amazing person, who did whatever it needed to turn my stay at St. Mark's Hospital into a unique experience. I am really grateful to him for what he did and I am sure that I can call him a good friend of mine.



For my next stop I choose Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital. Here I spent 4 days under the team of Mr. Brendan Moran and Mr. Tom Cecil. In my opinion visiting the hospital, where ‘the holy plane’ was found was obligatory, but not only for the rectal cancers, but also because Basingstoke is one of the leading centers for treating pseudomyxoma peritonei. Unfortunately this disease is currently not well treatable in my country. I was really impressed by the results, achieved by Mr. Moran’s team. I had the possibility to see 5 operations for cytoreductive surgery and HIPEC – 3 for pseudomyxoma and 2 for advanced colon cancer. During my stay at Basingstoke I had the chance to observe the pseudomyxoma MDT as well. I am really thankful to all the team and especially to Mr. Brendan Moran for their hospitality and for accepting me under their care.



My third and last stop before the conference was at Cambridge University Hospital at Addenbrooke’s. Cambridge is an amazing, very old, academic city. I spent 2 days in the hospital under the team of Mr. Justin Davies. Mr Davies was a really friendly person, who was delighted to take me under his care, for which I am really grateful. During my stay I had the chance to observe 5 laparoscopic procedures, including IBD surgery in adolescents.



My final stop was the magnificent city of Edinburgh, where the annual meeting of the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland was taking place. The city of Edinburgh is really amazing, not only for its spirit, but also for its history. The first night I was delighted to present at the Council Dinner, which was in the famous Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. The dinner started with a guided tour around the really impressive museum of the college after which we were situated in an amazing hall inside the college. Being in a place like that was just incredible. I was delighted to have the ability not only to represent the Bulgarian Surgical Society in the Council Dinner, but also to meet new friends there. I am extremely happy that I succeed to meet and talk with Prof. Bill Heald, who is really friendly and had a unique sense of humour.



The conference was held at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre. The meeting in Edinburgh was with more than 1000 delegates from 3 different continents, which is impressively attended and a good place to meet new friends. I think it was really useful for me because it will keep me up to date with the novelties in colorectal surgery. I had the chance to attend a lot of sessions and courses, see a lot of lectures and to collect a lot of new ideas that I can discuss with the doctors in Bulgaria. I am extremely happy that I had the possibility to meet and thank personally Prof. Steele for the opportunity that ACPGIB gave me this year.



It's extremely difficult to summarise all your emotions in a simple written report. The weeks spent in different hospitals were like a dream coming true. I would like to say a special thanks to the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland for giving me the opportunity to attend the amazing annual meeting and visit some of the leading centers. The travelling fellowship is a really incredible opportunity and I hope that it will develop more and more in the future.