

ASES - SECEC Travelling fellowship 2006

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It was a great honour and pleasure for me to be elected for the upper mentioned fellowship, which took place from **Sept. 9th until Oct. 7th 2006**.

The first stop was at **Rush Medical Centre at Chicago** where we were hosted by Dr. Cole and Dr. Romeo.

They were very friendly and they had selected several interesting cases for us, which included primary and revision cases e.g. conversion of a failed hemiarthroplasty into a reverse prosthesis, an arthroscopic post. shoulder stabilization in a hockey player, and a fracture prosthesis.

After the first three days we joint the **ASES closed meeting** at the Park Hyatt Hotel Chicago downtown.

It was a great experience to meet so many famous shoulder surgeons from the U.S. at one place.

Dr. Szabo and I were invited to give talks about our scientific projects. For the fellowship it was very helpful to meet most of our hosts in advance to arrange some details for our future stays.

From Chicago we travelled to **Rochester** to visit the **Mayo Clinic**. Our main host was Dr. Cofield. We were invited at his house where we met Dr. Morrey, and Dr. O'Driscoll as well as Dr. Sperling. The Mayo team had a schedule with academic sessions and presentations and observing time in the OR.

I was impressed by the whole institution and the scientific background of the orthopaedic department.

San Antonio in Texas was our next stay. We were hosted by Dr. Burkhart, who is very well known for his arthroscopic shoulder work. We spend 2.5 days in the OR and one evening we were giving our presentations at a small meeting at the Orthopedic Institute. We were impressed by the high standards in arthroscopic procedures. This high degree of specialization unfortunately led to some cases where the indications were stretched too much e.g. ASK cuff repair.

At the weekend we were invited at his Texas ranch where we met his family.

In **Jackson, Mississippi** we visited Dr. Field and Dr. Savoie. They were part of an Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine Centre and they are mostly specialized in the field of arthroscopic

shoulder and elbow surgery. Like in San Antonio nearly 100% of the cases were done arthroscopically. Sometimes the indications seemed not as conclusive as we know from Europe.

The next stop was the **Cleveland Clinic** where Dr. Iannotti was our host. This stay was somehow similar to the stay at Mayo Clinic, because it was very academic with a well organized time schedule and a lot of discussions and presentations. Dr. Iannotti and his fellows were extremely friendly and we were happy to see open shoulder surgery again e.g. lat. transfer, arthroplasties, reverse shoulder prosthesis.

From Cleveland we flew to **Boston** to visit Dr. Warner and Dr. Higgins. We arrived on Saturday afternoon and had Sunday off. The stay was organized by the secretaries and some "academic coordinators" who contacted us in advance for several times to ask for our talks, for the menu and many other things We had the impression that Dr. Warner was motivated to show us as much as he could, but the time in the OR (one morning) and in the outpatient clinic (one afternoon) was definitely too short. I had the impression that we did not have enough time to visit MGH and Brigham & Women with Dr. Higgins within 2 days. Although Harvard was interesting and somehow impressive, the organization was somehow vague and superficial. By the way, Boston was the only city, where our hosts did not pick us up at the airport and tried to show us their city during our day off.

As the last highlight we travelled to **New York** to visit the shoulder service at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Centre where Dr. Levine was our host (Dr. Bigliani was on vacation). In contrast to Boston Dr. Levine was extremely engaged to organize an academic stay in terms of presentations and case selection for the OR. The whole team was extremely motivated to spent time and discussions with us. We saw a good mixture of open and arthroscopic shoulder surgery without too much stress on open or arthroscopic procedures. From NY we flew back to Europe.

Overall, we had a perfectly organized fellowship with the opportunity to meet some of the world's most famous shoulder and elbow surgeons.