IBRA Scholarship “B” at Faculdade de Odontologia de Araraquara

Cirurgia e traumatologia Buco-Maxilo-Facial

Araaquara, SP, Brazil,

Scholarship date: 1.11.2021- 1.12.2021

REPORT ON FELLOWSHIP IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY OF DENTAL SCHOOL AT ARARAQUARA, SP, BRAZIL

by Andrzej Jaxa-Kwiatkowski

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In 2021, I received an International Bone Research Association (IBRA) scholarship in program (B) which was supposed to allow me to spend a month at Faculdade de Odontologia de Araraquara Cirurgia e Traumatologia Buco-Maxilo-Facial, Araraquara, SP, Brazil.

It was not without vicissitudes. Year 2021 was a special, difficult year, the possibility of traveling abroad, participating in congresses and courses was significantly hindered by ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. My fellowship was due in July but it was postponed because of the difficult epidemiological situation in Brazil at that time. Thanks to the great commitment of both parties and the great kindness of Prof Dr. Dr. Mario F. R. Gabrielli, the fellowship took place immediately after the epidemiological situation stabilized in the period 1.11.2021-1.12.2021.

Even before my arrival to Brazil, I was supervised by an attendant from the International Office, who helped me find a suitable accommodation for me in a short distance from my place of work. The day before I started working at the Clinic, I was invited to lunch to introduce me and to get to know the Clinic's team, I have not even dreamed of such a warm reception.

The Araraquara clinic provides its care in the field of maxillofacial surgery to three hospitals that provide specialist care for 26 cities around Araraquara. Residents along with the specialists are on duty under the phone at the same time in three of them, always ready to react when needed. Treatments under general anesthesia were also performed in three hospitals, smaller procedures under the general anesthesia were sometimes performed at the same time in different hospitals. In addition to working in the hospital, every day from 8 to 18 there are specialist consultations at the Outpatient Clinic at the Dental School at Araraquara, SP (São Paulo State University- UNESP), where around 40 patients are consulted daily. Patients report for control visits, others are qualified for procedures under general anesthesia or undergo smaller procedures that can be executed under local anesthesia, for example in the field of the dental and oral surgery and implantology and patients are also admitted on an emergency basis such as dental infections or facial trauma.

During the fellowship, I had the opportunity to observe closely the work of surgeons with extraordinary manual skills, their patience and readiness to share their wisdom allowed me to gain new knowledge, develop new abilities, expand my boundaries and learn about a number of procedures not performed in my Clinic, especially in the field of temporomandibular joints surgery such as arthroscopy, arthroplasty and arthrocentesis. I had the opportunity to participate and assist in various surgical procedures in the field of cranio-maxillofacial surgery, correction of facial anomalies by orthognathic surgery, surgery of the temporomandibular joints, implantology also in highly atrophic jaws, traumatology- simple or complex fractures of the facial bones using modern osteosynthesis systems. In addition, I had the opportunity to see an extremely rare reconstruction of the maxilla with an individualized titanium implant from KLS Martin, in a patient with chemical necrosis of the maxilla and zygomatic complex. It is worth mentioning that it was the first operative treatment with use of such advanced, individualized plate system performed in South America and the sixth in the world. Thanks to the availability of excellent computer software and machinery, I could have participated in 3D virtual planning before surgeries and learn about that topic from the inside out. Seeing all these procedures enabled me to evaluate treatment alternatives and to learn some surgical tricks that in many cases facilitate operating treatment.

I had also a great opportunity to visit other hospitals in other cities like Matão and Ribeirão Preto. Members of the Professor Gabrielli team frequently travel to other cities in Brazil to give lectures on maxillofacial surgery.

The scholarship, apart from the obvious and undeniable educational values, the care of extraordinary mentors who accompanied me at all stages of my scholarship, also allowed me to dive into the culture of Brazil, in its excellent cuisine, lifestyle, meeting many wonderful people, learning Samba and Forró, and improving my Portuguese language skills.

It motivated me deeply and positively influenced my medical career in the field of Maxillofacial Surgery, with strong dedication to achieve the greatest possible knowledge and skills. This time was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

I want to express my deep gratitude to the **International Bone Research Association(IBRA)** and **The Scholarship Program Committee** who kindly gave me their support and trust and made this an enriching experience possible.

I would like to thank Professor Mário Francisco Real Gabrielli and Professora Marisa Aparecida Cabrini Gabrielli and the whole team, who shared their experience and knowledge, Your extraordinary hospitality created me a home far away from home. I admire Your work and You all, Your broad knowledge and Your composure even in the most difficult situations during the surgery.

Yours sincerely,

Andrzej Jaxa-Kwiatkowski