IBRA scholarship report

Information about Scholar and fellowship

Name of Scholar: Lopez Chermulas Rocio Noelia

Country of Citizenship: Argentina

Name and Country of Training Center: Dept. of Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery University Hospital Marburg. Marburg, Germany.

Name of Fellowship Director: Prof. Dr. Dr. Andreas Neff

Scholarship Type: Program B

Scholarship date March 1st to March 29th

Professional and personal experience

My professional expectations about the scholarship were watch and learn as much as possible from Professor Dr. Dr. Andreas Neff and his team, especially in the field of TMJ surgery, Trauma surgery and treatment of different kind of tumors. My personal expectation was gaining experience from a different training center highly qualified as Marburg center, and be able to learn from colleagues, specially from their professional experience.

The department of "Mund, Kiefer und GesichtsQuirurgie" is part of the regional trauma and head and neck tumor centers. It covers the full scope of oral and maxillofacial surgery from minor procedures

including dental implants to major surgeries as orthognathic, trauma, Temporomandibular Joint Surgery including total joint replacement, oncological surgical treatment of malignant tumors of the head and neck region, plastic reconstruction some of them done with microsurgery, and the use of endoscopy with different surgical purposes.

During my scholarship I was mostly incorporated in the operating theatre and hospitalized patients that were daily checked in the morning at the 123 Station of the department of oral and maxillofacial surgery, otherwise I could go to the ambulance, located at the ground floor, where the outpatients, children and adults, go for first examinations and follows up. In this place there is a room destiny to take panoramic X-ray and another one where there is a sonographer. The department's outpatient clinics placed at the first floor, has several rooms, one of them is use for laser therapy and another one is used for orthognathic surgery planning, where they have a special mirror, where the patient with wax models inside his/her mouth can see for themselves, the changes planned. The others rooms are employed to perform procedures under local anesthesia, where I also spend time.
The central B operating theatre is located on -1 floor, where the oral and maxillofacial surgery otorhinolaryngology and ophthalmology departments carry out their surgeries, this enables the interdisciplinary work as the sharing of the inpatient station with Ophthalmology specialty. Neurosurgery department and Oral and maxillofacial department also work together despite the former is located in a different wing of the hospital.
Every day, the morning starts at 7:30 when a meeting takes place at the conference room, where all the team gathered together and the doctor who was in his/her night shift introduces new cases, new patient's admissions and discuss about diagnosis and possibles treatments.
There were 3-4 surgeries per day scheduled under general anesthesia. I was able to see all kind of procedures that included surgical treatments in oral and maxillofacial malformations (e.g.: dysgnathia), fractures of the facial skeleton, cleft lip and palate, osteoradionecrosis of the jaws, medication related osteonecrosis of the jaws, cysts, benign and malignant tumors among others pathologies. I could learn different surgical techniques, like the modification of a subcuticular suturing that Dr. Neff patiently taught me and I found very useful to incorporate back home. The use of ultrasounds intraoperatively to check if the blind reduction of the zygomatic arch with a hook is correct. I also was able to see and learn Latissimus Dorsi free flap and Radial forearm free flap, use for reconstruction of facial defects due to cancer surgical ablations. I even could see through their surgical microscope employed to do the micro anastomosis. I found this experience very enriching as we don't have a surgical microscope designated specifically to our department like "Mund -, Kiefer und Gesictschirurgie" department has. If I have to point out another difference between my experience in Marburg Hospital and the department where I come from, I may say the use of polydioxanone foil for orbital floor fractures is one of them, at my hospital we usually use titanium mesh.

The department of oral and maxillofacial surgery it is full of kind and ready to help people, especially the head of the department, Prof. Dr. Dr. Andreas Neff that always took the time to explain me absolutely everything since my first day there, like how his department and the hospital works. The attendants and assistants' doctors were always willing to help and explain different surgical procedures, their way to treat patients with different pathologies, their own preferences and

fundamentals for them. I would also like to thank Ms. Jutta Kunzendorf, professor's Neff secretary, who was really kind and nice by always answering my doubts.

Besides the academic and surgical experience at the “Universitätklinikum Giessen und Marburg”, Marburg is a lovely city with so much history in it. There is a castle at the top of the city located in the Oberstadt and it has a museum inside that’s worthy to see. Marburg has a medieval structure in the central part of the city that delighted me and there are different monuments that make reference to the Grimm Brothers Stories, because they lived in Marburg for a while, which by the way was also a great experience, to be just in the same town were once lived the authors of famous fairy tales. So, I found Marburg like a fairytale city that it is full of science.

There are no worlds that can express how thankful and grateful I am with IBRA for giving me the opportunity of being in such high-level training center as Marburg and to Prof. Dr. Dr. Andreas Neff for accepting and teaching me. Also, I would like to thank his staff for their kindness.