IBRA Scholarship report

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Department of hand, plastic and reconstructive surgery.
Kantosspital Saint Gallen, Switzerland.
Fellowship Director: Prof. Dr. J. Grunert.

My name is Alan Rodriguez, I am an orthopedic and hand surgeon in my country Argentina.
I have participated in a ostosyntesis course of IBRA in Mendoza, Argentina. In that moment I understood the importance of knowing the quality of the implants we use.
I knew about IBRA scholarship and I decided to improve my knowledge about:

1. The best way to use Medartis implants.
2. Hand and reconstructive surgery.

I have not had the opportunity to improve my skills on plastic surgery, so I looked at the IBRA page.
I was interested in Saint Gallen Kantosspital because it had all the cases that I was looking for.

The department of Hand and Plastic Surgery Saint Gallen

It is composed by doctors from different specialties.
They are orthopedics surgeons, plastic surgeons, and general surgeons.

Every morning they start with the meeting at 7. 30 am, where they present the new day cases, and the surgeries from the previous day.
At 8 am o'clock some surgeons go to operation theater, and the others doctors go to outpatients clinic.
They work with two operation rooms simultaneously every day.
Frequently, in room A they operate on hand and wrist cases, and in room B plastic surgery cases.
They have 12 elective cases each day, so the surgeries finish at 2:00 pm normally.

There is an outpatient clinic every day where both, new and follow up patients are seen. This gives an excellent opportunity to ask Prof Grunert about the management of the different cases which come through. The clinic offers enough time between each patient to discuss the finer points of the cases.

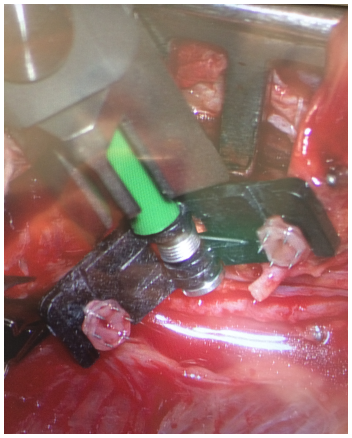
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 am		Meeting		Meeting	
7 30 am	Meeting	Case presentation	Meeting	Round inner patients	Meeting
8 am	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery
2 pm	Out patient	Out patient	Out patient	Out patient	Out patient
5 pm	End day	End day	End day	End dat	End day

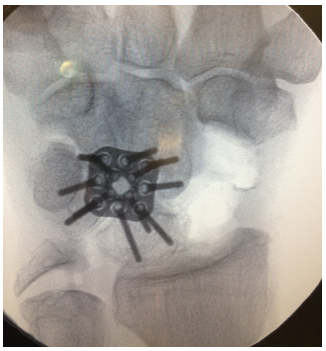
Normally you can go to out patient clinic after the surgeries at 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm when the daily work finishes.

Every Tuesday all the team come in 30 minutes early at the meeting room for a medical case presentation.
I had the chance to give them a presentation about my cases of distal radius fracture with arthroscopic assistance.
Every Thursday after the daily meeting the team goes to the round inner patient.

Most interesting operations

1. Internal fixation of phalanx
2. Internal fixation of metacarpals
3. Internal fixation of distal radius fractures
4. Thumb Collateral ligament repairs
5. Extensor and flexor tendons repairs
6. Four corner fusions
7. Trapeziectomy with suspension arthroplasty
8. Mallet finger fixation
9. Wrist and thumb denervation
10. Tunnel carpal release
11. Brachial plexus injury
12. Axillary artery reconstruction with vane graft
13. Ulnar shortening
14. Base thumb instability
15. Skin free flaps
16. Rotatory skin flaps
17. Microsurgery flaps
18. Dupuytren disease
19. Wrist arthroscopy
20. Ulnar nerve release
21. Pip joint replacement with Swanson implant
22. Scapho Lunate dissociation
23. Skin tumors





Conclusion

In this Hospital you have the opportunity to see a lot of interesting cases in a short time, because they have a lot of new injuries every day, and the team can handle them very accurately and quickly.
All the specialists in the team have deep knowledge and they share it with you every time you ask for.
This is a great place to improve your knowledge in hand surgery and reconstructive surgery.

Acknowledgement

I am very grateful to the IBRA staff and Professor Grünert for this fellowship and opportunity to visit Kantospittal Saint Gallen.
Also, many thanks to doctors and staff in the Department of Hand Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery of KSSG and IBRA for explanations, kindness, hospitality and helpfulness.
Professor Grunert is an excellent Doctor with too much knowledge, and he did my stay on St. Gallen amazing.

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