IBRA Scholarship report

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Scholarship type "B" program from 01.03-31.03.2019 at UKH Lorenz Böhler, Vienna, Austria

Fellowship Director: Prof.Dr. Martin Leixnering

It had been a great honour to view and participate in the work of the Hand Surgery Team at UKH Lorenz Böhler. During 2017, I had an opportunity to visit the UKH Lorenz Böhler for a few days as a part of a delegation. That was when I met Prof. Dr. Martin Leixnering. We agreed to collaborate in the future and that collaboration was brought to life with the help of the IBRA program.

Keeping in mind my keen interest in hand and reconstructive surgery, as well as the fact that I am the Head of a team forming in my own hospital, my expectations from the visit were fully fulfilled. My goal, aside from the hand and wrist surgery aspect, was to familiarize myself with the organizational aspect on all levels of the hospital.

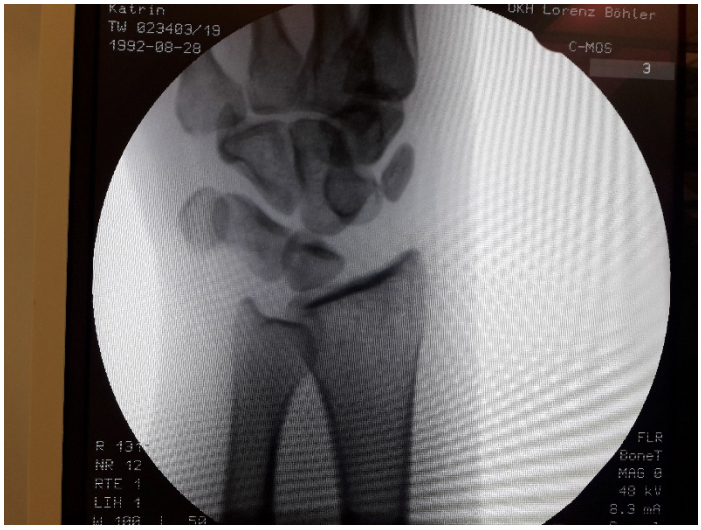
UKH Lorenz Böhler is a Level 1 Trauma Center, highly developed for treating all types of injury, as well as bone disease. It has four operating rooms, one of which is reserved for hand surgery. Injured patients are able to receive care 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Each day begins with a morning meeting at 7.30 a.m., the point of which is to discuss new patients that have been admitted, present the surgeries that had been performed and analyze problems and therapeutic options in treating patients. The doctors are assigned to teams and after the meating, they disperse to the operating rooms, outpatient clinic, emergency admission according to the roster. A regular work day finishes with a meeting at 1.30p.m. Those assigned to the operating rooms work until all the operative procedures planned for that day have been finished. Often, the surgeries continue well into the afternoon and evening.

During my stay, I actively participated in the work of the Hand Surgery Team, led by Prof.Dr. Martin Leixnering. I was a part of all aspects of team work in the operating room, outpatient clinic, emergency room and treatment of newly injured patients. Most of my time had been spent working alongside Prof.Dr. Martin Leixnering. Together we discussed many interesting cases treated by the Professor: scaphoid bipartita, hand bone reconstruction with a vascular condylar graft, new techniques for osteosynthesis. I was particularily impressed by the Professor's approach to patients, his way of communication and building of trust. I also collaborated with other team members: dr Pezzei, dr Beer, dr Yurkowich and especially Dr Keuchel, whom I would like to thank for all the assistance she provided with the organization of my arrival and stay at the hospital.

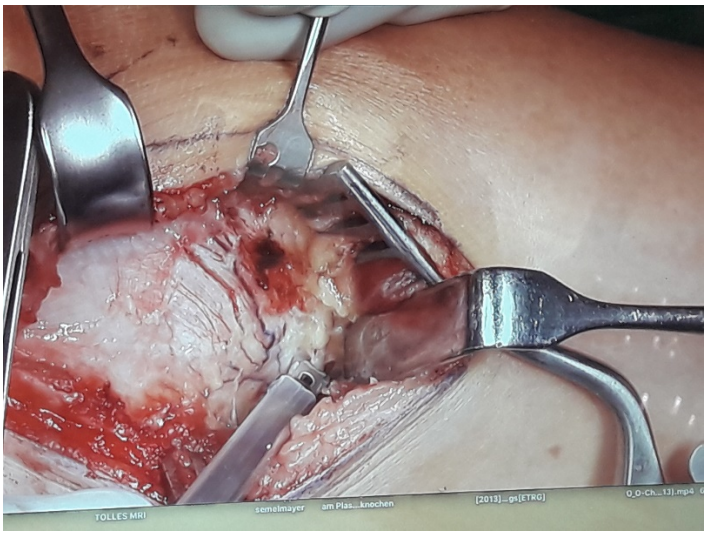
During the week between March 11th and March 15th, a Wrist Surgery Course (Wiener Handkurse) was held at the hospital. Professor Leixnering invited me to participate and for that I am very grateful.

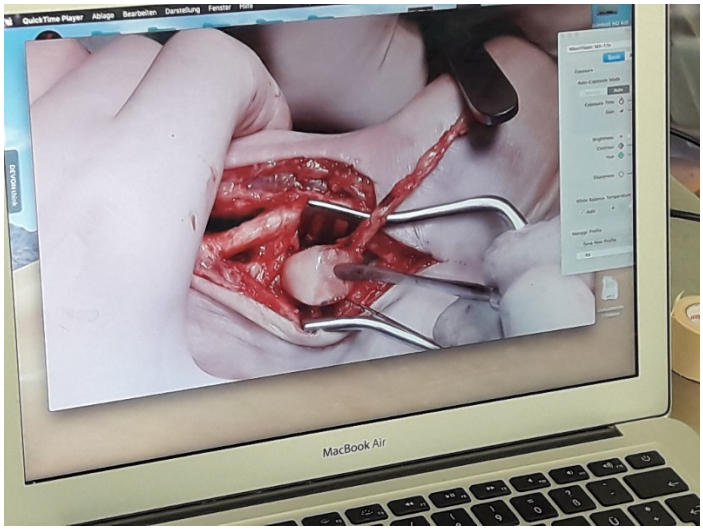
Some of the many interesting cases and operative procedures I participated in were:

1. Scafoid bipartita



2. Condylar vascular graft for ossis lunatum avascular necrosis





3. Reconstruction and stabilization of an articular phalangeal fracture with Kichner wire

4. Osteosynthesis ossis scafoidei with two headless screw

5. Arthroplasty of the ulnar head

And many others ....

UKH Lorenz Böhler in a high level trauma center that treats patients with the most complex of injuries and bone diseases on a high professional level. I would like to recommend the Hand Surgery Team, especially to young doctors as a wonderful opportunity for professional development in the beautiful settings of Vienna.

I would like to thank all the members of the Hand Surgery Team, the doctors at the hospital and especially Prof. Dr. M. Leixnering for a wonderful reception and the opportunity to develop new skills in my professional work.

I would like to thank the IBRA organization for all the support and I hope to collaborate with you again in the future.

At the suggestion of Prof. Dr. Leixnering, I would like to apply for the Wrist Surgery Course organized by IBRA, which is to be held in Vienna during the month of December.