

3-month clinical fellowship in Fetal Medicine

Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Canada.

September – November 2017

**NF17006**

The NFOG Fund generously supported part of my expenses related to a three months fellowship in Fetal Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, Canada.

I am a specialist in OBGYN currently doing a three year subspecialisation programme in Fetal Medicine at Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen focusing mainly on invasive fetal procedures. The center at Rigshospitalet is the only Danish center doing fetal therapy.

The procedures include intrauterine blood transfusions, intrauterine drainage procedures, fetal therapy in monochorionic twin pregnancies with laser, radiofrequency ablation and cord occlusions.

There are a limited number of procedures in Denmark every year. In order to train for these procedures I went to Toronto to do a three months visiting fellowship working with one of the leading specialist in the field Dr. Greg Ryan at Mount Sinai Hospital, University of Toronto. Mount Sinai is the largest fetal therapy center in Canada with 7000 deliveries every year and a large number of intrauterine procedures every year. I had my daily work in The Special Pregnancy Programme Clinic – a referral centre for fetal anomalies from Ontario and for fetal invasive procedures from a large part of Canada. During my stay I took part in 25 laser surgeries for Twin to Twin Transfusion and I performed several of these myself under supervision of the staff at Mount Sinai. I also gained experience with using radiofrequency ablation for chorioangiomas and Twin Reversed Arterial Perfusion (TRAP) twins – a technique only rarely used in Denmark and furthermore I got the chance to join two of the very first Open Fetal Spina Bifida Repairs Canada.

My three months fellowship has not only provided me with new surgical skills to bring back to Denmark, but I have also gained an international network of fetal medicine specialist from all over the world for future collaboration and I feel highly privileged that the NFOG Fund gave me the opportunity to participate.

Lone Nikoline Nørgaard, Copenhagen Dec 6th. 2017.