

Written report NFOG Fund 2017 (NF17009)

Clinical visit / fellowship in Leuven, Belgium

I spend three interesting and rewarding months (May-July 2017) in Universitair Ziekenhuis Leuven in Belgium. I had dreamed of doing a short period of training abroad during my residency in obstetrics and gynecology. I decided inquire for possibility of doing that kind of fellowship in Leuven, because they have a hospital of excellent quality, and a long experience of academic research. Also the location in central Europe was a positive thing since I had never visited Belgium before.

I got a good opportunity to see how Obstetrics and Gynaecology department is organised in Leuven. Many aspects of the obstetrics and gynecology are done similarly in Belgium and Finland: both of the countries have good standard of care and they follow international guidelines in patient care. Of course there are always some differences that were interesting to notice. For example, in Finland midwives are working more independently than in Belgium. In Belgium they don't do breeds deliveries in vaginally, except in twins if B is in breeds position. In Leuven they have a fetal surgery unit, where they for example do laser coagulations in twin twin transfusion syndrome and congenital diaphragmatic hernia repairs, that was all new for me.

For me it was specially interesting to learn about gynaecological oncology in Leuven. They have lot of experience of oncological treatments. They are involved in many trials including ovarian, endometrial and cervix cancer studies. I was happy to take part in the multidisciplinary oncological cancer (MOC) meeting every Thursday afternoon. There I had an opportunity to learn of the imaging protocol that is used in Leuven. I think that whole-body MRI is something that could be useful also in Finland. In Leuven they also use neoadjuvant chemotherapy more often in ovarian cancer patients than is done in our unit.

I am very happy that I got the opportunity to do this visit. I wish to thank the NFOG fund for the financial support that made the visit possible. I am grateful for all of the doctors who taught me and were happy to explain me different things about their treatment protocols although their hands were full of work all the time.

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