

Traveling Fellowship, Fellows Report/NF19283

Name of fellow: Mai Partridge Vandborg

Position at Home Institute: Fellow

Home Institute (full address): Department of Gynecology, Theme Cancer
Odense University Hospital
J.B. Winsløws vej 4,
5000 Odense C, Denmark

Head of the Department: Professor Jan Blaakær and
Professor Lone Kjeld Petersen

Email: Jan.Blaakaer@rsyd.dk
Lone.Kjeld.Petersen@rsyd.dk

Name of Mentor at Host Institution: Associate Professor, Henrik Falconer

Position at Host Institute: Head of Center Gynecologic Oncology,
Theme Cancer
Stockholm, Sweden

Institute (full address): Solnavägen 1, 171 77, Solna, Sweden

Email: henrik.falconer@sll.se

Dates of Fellowship: **1.11.2019- 31.01.2020**

The NFOG Fund generously supported part of my expenses related to a three-month clinical stay at Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm/Solna, Sweden at the department of Women and children's health. The visit was part of my EXPU expert training in onco-gynecology.

I am very grateful for this economical support.

Detailed description on teaching received:

During my visit, I was planned to be in the operating theatre 3-4 days a week. Robotic surgery with focus on sentinel-node procedures and vulva cancer management were the main goals of my stay - but I was involved in all activities at the department of Gynecological Oncology including MDT, National and International Vulva tumor boards, open surgery, out- and in-patient clinics and scientific meetings.

I had the chance to both participate and independently to perform radical gynecologic surgeries for as well ovarian cancer patients, vulva cancer patients, endometrial cancer patient and cervical cancer patients. Surgery was performed in pelvically, in upper abdomen – liver mobilization, stripping of the diaphragm and other peritoneal surfaces, bowel resection, splenectomy, partial hepatectomy and etc. It was very learning and interesting to understand all the steps of radical hysterectomy and pelvic/para aortic lymphadenectomy, also understanding the concept of sentinel lymph node detection using ICG. The practice of videotaping robot assisted procedures for later evaluation and education was very learn full.

Operation with the supra-fascial lotus petal flap following the resection of vulvar cancer as well as simpler resection of the vulva was performed in several cases under my stay, and I had the great opportunity to participate to these operations were also plastic surgeons participated.

In the gynecologic oncology ward, I had the opportunity to assess pre- and post-operative management of the gynecologic oncology patients and chemotherapy complications and palliative care.

Goals accomplished:

- Participating and performing radical surgical surgeries – open, laparoscopic, robotics
- Understanding complete debulking surgery for ovarian and vulva cancer
- Understanding the concept of sentinel lymph node detection using ICG
- Better understanding of multidisciplinary team work and decision making of gynecologic cancer patients
- Better understanding of surgical anatomy and anatomical variations; surgical technique, management of common surgical complication.
- Improved knowledge on the pre-operative work including imaging modalities present at MDT

Achievement in clinical practice:

Being the member of Gynecologic Surgery team in Stockholm/Karolinska, allowed me to widen my knowledge and experience in the field of management and correct decision making of gynecologic oncology patients. I learned a lot and improved my skills in ovarian cancer debulking surgery – especially regarding the bowel resection part, in robotic lymphadenectomy detection with ICG and in radical vulva surgery performing supra-fascial lotus petal flap.

Overall evaluation and comments of the fellowship:

My three months at the gynecological department at the department of Women and children's health, Karolinska, have been a most professionally instructive and refreshing experience. I have had the pleasure of working with a team of very dedicated colleagues in a constructively edifying collegial atmosphere, where the training of the younger colleagues as well as the MDT, the National and International Vulva tumor boards had a high priority in the weekly work-schedule of the place.

It has been uplifting to meet new challenges and a high professional standard – but not the least to be assured that our own practice “back home” fulfills the highest standards just as well.

Finally, I bring my greatest thanks to associated Professor Henrik Falconer and his staff for finding room for me and teach me all their surgical “tips and tricks” in their busy schedule.

Date: 13/4 2020

Applicant's name Mai Partridge Vandborg

Signature: