



ESGO Traveling Fellowship Fellows Report

Name of Fellow: Serhan Can İŞCAN
Position at Home Institution: Gynecologic Oncology Fellow
Home Institution: Suleyman Demirel University Medical Faculty,
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Name of Mentor at Host Institution: PD. Dr. Med. Mustafa Zelal Muallem
Position at Host Institution: Senior Physician, Deputy Director of the Clinic
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Name of Mentor at Host Institution: PD. Dr. Med. Philipp Harter
Position at Host Institution: Senior Physician, Deputy Director of the Clinic
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Dates of Fellowship:

03 June 2019 - 28 June 2019 Comprehensive Cancer Center Charité – Universitätsmedizin

01 July 2019 – 02 August 2019 Clinic of Gynecologic Oncology Kliniken Essen Mitte

Detailed description on Teaching received:

First, I want to describe “Why is ESGO Travelling Fellowship important?” and “How to choose the best institute for us?”. I think this is the first and cardinal step of ESGO Travelling Fellowship Programme. We need to determine what we want from the institution and what are our goals. I preferred Kliniken Essen Mitte and Charite because I am especially interested in targeted therapy of ovarian cancer, retroperitoneal approach to ovarian cancer, laparoscopic radical surgery, laparoscopic – robotic lymph node dissection, pre-, postoperative management of gynecologic cancer and multidisciplinary gynecologic cancer care. At least one ovarian cancer surgery (primary, secondary, tertiary cytoreductive surgery) and various procedures are performed every day in these institutes. Complete cytoreduction rate should be > 65% according to “ESGO Advanced (Stage III-IV) Ovarian Cancer Surgery, Quality Indicators, Complete report”. These institutes have higher complete cytoreduction rate. They gave great support to many studies that guide gynecologic oncology and also many studies are in progress. These institutes are Accredited Centers for Training in Gynaecological Oncology & Certified Centers for Ovarian Cancer Surgery. There are many accredited centers like these centers in Europe. This should not be forgotten. Finally, ESGO Travelling Fellowship is important because we are large family of gynecologic oncology. In this way, we get to know our colleagues in the other institutes and countries and we have opportunity to learn a lot of knowledge and skills from the masters.

Both institutes have morning meetings every day and day start with these meetings. Preoperative and postoperative patients were evaluated and discussed. At this point, I think it would be better to know German. Multidisciplinary tumor meeting is held every Friday at Klinikum Essen Mitte. Pathological results, radiologic imagings are examined and treatment of each patient is discussed and decided individually. Chief determines the operation teams and the operations started after the morning meeting. I had the chance to assist in several radical gynecologic cancer surgery especially advanced ovarian cancer. I was present in approximately 50 surgeries. I developed my surgery skills like hepatic mobilization, splenectomy, total peritonectomy, en bloc resection and etc. I learned sandwich technique of diaphragmatic stripping from the surgeons who had described before. I had the opportunity to share time together with Dr. Harter, Dr. du Bois, Dr. Ataseven, Dr. İnci and they took care of me one on one. I owe them thanks and gratitude. Also, I assisted Dr. Schouli, Dr. Muallem, Dr. Prader, Dr. Schneider, Dr. Baert, Dr. Pitzner, Dr. Chekerov. All these surgeons are very kind, hospitable

and informative. I learned many things from each. I asked many questions associated with surgeries, treatments, etc... in every day, every time and they always responded in detail. In addition, I had the chance to chat with anesthesiologists especially in the Charite and I learned a lot knowledge about intraoperative follow-up and postoperative management.

Finally, I am grateful to ESGO for the travelling fellowship that supported me financially during my fellowship education. I was able to do all of these with the support of ESGO and without financial difficulty.

Goals accomplished:

Thanks to everyone who I had the opportunity to work with them in both centers. I accomplished my all goals and even more with their help.

- A. Learning various preoperative and postoperative managements, ERAS protocols...
- B. Attending multidisciplinary tumor meetings,
- C. Assisting in radical oncological procedures (primary cytoreduction, interval debulking, radical hysterectomy, sentinel lymph node procedure of vulvar carcinoma, endometrial cancer, etc...)
- D. Learning different surgical techniques (Sandwich Technique, en bloc resection, total peritoneal packing, resection of supradiaphragmatic lymph nodes, nerve-sparing radical hysterectomy, ...)
- E. Learning how to design study and select patient to clinical trials.
- F. Observing robotic docking and robotic procedures.
- G. Meeting to masters of gynecologic oncology and assisting them.

Achievement in clinical practice:

- A. How to select chemotherapy regimens, targeted therapy in advanced ovarian cancer, recurrent ovarian cancer.
- B. Knowledge of surgical anatomy in gynecologic cancers.
- C. Skills on gynecologic oncologic surgeries especially advanced ovarian cancer.
- D. How to perform safe surgery of recurrent gynecologic cancer.
- E. Preoperative evaluation and postoperative follow-up.

F. Management of Borderline Ovarian Tumors.

Presentations eg. at seminar or meetings:

None

Research performed and outcome:

None

Publications:

None

Problems encountered with a critical evaluation of the fellowship experience as a whole:

Most of nurses and operating room staff did not know English and most of them were not helpful in Charite. However, all of nurses and staff were very kind, smiling and helpful in Essen. I think it would be better and more useful to know German language at the morning meetings in both institutes. But if you don't know German, it is not problem because of the common medicine language and also you can ask what you wonder. Assistant doctors usually help you in Essen. They explained management plans and surgical procedures in English when required. There is a great experience in hospitate in both institutes.

Future plan on returning to home:

When I have returned to my institute, I have shared knowledge that was seen and learned with my colleagues and my chief in there. I have added their techniques to my surgical approach. I will discuss the treatment regimens of gynecologic cancers with the medical oncologist in my institute and we will evaluate the differences.

When I finish my gynecologic oncology fellowship education one month later, I will create my own order with all my experiences and what I have gained in ESGO traveling fellowship. I will continue communication with both institutes. I think we can plan several studies in the future.

I will continue to work, learn and develop. I will try to be useful to patients.

Overall evaluation and comment of the fellowship:

This is not only fellowship program, but this is also my dream that I met prominent and masters of gynecologic oncology. This fellowship was very important, proudly and useful for me and my future. I have gained valuable information, I have made important relationships. I think I have improved on many things as surgery skills, medication of cancer, multidisciplinary approach, etc...

Not only me but also my colleagues and our patients have gained a lot in this fellowships. Also on behalf of them, I'd like to thank you for this fellowship. Finally thanks very much to Essen and Charite family for helping me, supporting me and teaching me many things. At this point, my fellowship could be 2 months with financial support of ESGO. I'd like to thank ESGO Accreditation&Fellowship committee and Helena Opolecka (Account Manager, ESGO).

Date : 12 August 2019

Applicant's name (in capital letters): SERHAN CAN ISCAN

Signature:

Enjoy learning with ESGO!