



ESGO Traveling Fellowship Fellows Report

Name of Fellow: Jenny-Maria Jönsson

Position at Home Institution: resident gynecological oncology

Home Institution (full address): Oncology Clinic, Skåne University Hospital Lund, Se-221 85 Lund, Sweden

Head of the Department: Prof. Jan Astermark

Email: jan.astermark@skane.se

Name of Mentor at Host Institution: PD Dr.Med. Philipp Harter, Deputy Director

Position at Host Institution: my position; resident gynecological oncology

Institution (full address): Kliniken Essen-Mitte, Evangelische Huysens-Stiftung/Knappschaft GmbH, Henricistrasse 92, De-451 36 Essen, Germany

Email: p.harter@kliniken-essen-mitte.de

Dates of Fellowship:

Planned: Sept. 4 – Nov. 24

Accomplished: Sept. 4 – Sept. 15

As already discussed with Helena Opolecka I had to terminate the fellowship earlier than planned due to personal circumstances (my father is ill).

Detailed description on Teaching received:

During the weeks spent at the gynecologic oncology clinic, Kliniken Essen-Mitte, I spent most of the time in the operation room, participating in laparotomies as well as laparoscopic surgery. Since I am a clinical oncologist and normally do not attend surgery, I received basic, but detailed and stringent, teaching in assisting and could to some extent assist in the laparotomies, which all concerned advanced stage ovarian cancer. It gave me a good and practical overview of the difficulties and challenges with this kind of surgery. Apart from ovarian cancer surgery, I also got the chance to observe robotic surgery of cervical cancer as well as to assist in vulvar cancer surgery including lymphadenectomies and observe the sentinel node technique.

During the first week, I also had the opportunity to participate in the gynonko live conference in

Essen, which contained lectures about modern surgical treatment of gynecological cancers, followed by live surgery from Essen and Berlin. This of course served as a perfect introduction to the surgical field for me as a clinical oncologist.

At the in-patient ward, I followed the work of one of the residents, who introduced me to the work there. The intention was that I was going to work at the in-patient ward as well, but this was never accomplished since I had to leave in advance. I did however get a good, but quick, overview of the work tasks and the pre-operative and post-operative patient care.

At the out-patient clinic I auscultated with of Dr. Harter during one day, which gave me an overview both of the patients seen at the clinic and of the organization.

In summary, attending and assisting in surgery as well as following the work at the in-patient and out-patient clinics was developing and gave me new experiences, as well as good opportunities to discuss oncologic treatments and compare Swedish and German treatment guidelines.

Goals accomplished :

Although the fellowship unfortunately was shorter than planned, it gave me a good insight into and understanding of the critical role of surgery in the treatment of gynecological cancers, not least radical ovarian cancer surgery. It also gave me new knowledge about the German health care system, which makes it easier to compare the German and Swedish treatment guidelines. The guidelines are similar, but do e.g. differ regarding the use of radiotherapy (especially brachytherapy) and the use of new, targeted treatments. Differences that seem to be based on different health care and insurance organizations.

According to the Swedish description of aims regarding sub-specialization in gynecological oncology, the fellowship gave me the opportunity to fulfill the aims regarding knowledge about gynecological cancer surgery and post-operative complications, as well as diagnostic measurements.

Achievement in clinical practice:

I definitely became a better surgical assistant, with better knowledge about and understanding for the challenges with advanced gynecologic cancer surgery. Regarding the care of gynecologic cancer patients, I noticed that we, most of the time, reason and do the same things both at my home institution and at the much larger host institution, which is encouraging. Likewise, it is valuable to know that goals (*i.e.* cure) sometimes can be accomplished in different ways.

Presentations eg. at seminar or meetings:

ESGO Traveling Fellowship, Fellows Report, January 2014

Not achieved due to the termination of the fellowship in advance

Research performed and outcome:

Not achieved due to the termination of the fellowship in advance

Publications:

Not achieved due to the termination of the fellowship in advance

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

I did not encounter any problems during the fellowship.

Future plan on returning to home:

The most important things I will bring back to my clinic is the reasoning about neoadjuvant chemotherapy (NACT) in cervical cancer stage IB2-IIA, which we very seldom use in Sweden. Although the role for NACT in cervical cancer can be (and currently is) discussed, it is still interesting to know that it can be used in selected cases. This also regards the use of sentinel node staging in advanced cervical cancer. Furthermore, I found the approach of always considering repeated radical surgery in recurrent ovarian cancer interesting. In such cases, I think we hesitate more often at my home clinic.

Overall evaluation and comment of the fellowship:

In summary, I found the fellowship very instructive and interesting and it really fulfilled the expectations. It gave me new experiences in the clinical as well as academic work. The organizations are different, and e.g. the fact that I as a clinical oncologist trained at a surgical center was sometimes difficult but also challenging.

Furthermore, the host institution was clearly used to hosting hospitants, and everything from nametag to phone and contract was prepared when I arrived, which made the introduction to work easy. Likewise, the colleagues were very helpful and interested in exchanging experiences from working in different countries. The contacts established will probably be the most valuable memory of the fellowship in the future, and I am truly grateful for the ESGO traveling fellowship, which made the practical/financial arrangements easy and thus made this work exchange come true.

In: Lund, Sweden

Date: 2017-10-01

Applicant's name (in capital letters)

JENNY-MARIA JÖNSSON

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Maria Jönsson', with a small 'u' above the 'n' in 'Jönsson'.

Enjoy learning with ESGO!