

E. NOI FELLOWSHIP REPORT – SHORT-TERM BENEFITS

NOI Fellowship Report concerning the evaluation of the short-term benefits must be sent no later than 30 days after the end of the fellowship to grant@noisk.sk. Specifically, indicate the scope of work during the fellowship in the report and highlight the achievement of goals together with the possibility of knowledge transfer for the Oncology in Slovakia. Attach the relevant photo documentation to the fellowship report.

NOI Grant with its assigned number must be acknowledged in all publications or presentations related to the fellowship results, and a citation of the publication or information about the conferences needs to be sent to grant@noisk.sk.

Name and titles of NOI Fellow:

Zuzana Országhová M.D.

Contact Address of the Home Institution:

2nd Department of Oncology, Comenius University and National Cancer Institute, Klenová 1, 83310 Bratislava

NOI Fellowship Title and Objectives:

Late Toxicity of Treatment in Germ Cell Tumors

NOI Fellowship Dates:

04/03/2023 – 06/28/2023

Contact Address of the Host Institution:

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center (IUSCC), IU School of Medicine
535 Barnhill Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46202, USA

Overview of NOI Fellowship experience:

During my clinical observership at the Indiana University Simon Cancer Center (IUSCC), I learned a lot about the management of genitourinary malignancies (germ cell testicular tumors, prostate cancer, urothelial cancer, kidney cancer) thanks to observing the work of physicians at outpatient oncology clinic, discussing and consulting individual cases and participation in interviews with patients and their families. I most often worked with Dr. Nabil Adra, Prof. Lawrence Einhorn, Dr. Theodore Logan, Dr. Jennifer King and Dr. Nasser Hanna. However, I also learned a lot about the management of malignant melanoma and lung cancer, because some oncologists specialize in these areas, too. At the department of clinical studies, I had the opportunity to observe the work of specialized research nurses, to see the process of including patients in clinical studies, the course of studies and regular visits. I also spent some time at the survivorship clinic of Dr. Meagan Miller, which is focused on the long-term follow-up of cancer survivors and the possible late toxicities of cancer treatment. I spent a week at the bone marrow transplant (BMT) unit with Dr. Mohammad Abu Zaid and his team, where I attended morning sessions and rounds. At the BMT unit, I also had the opportunity to see patients with germ cell tumors who underwent high-dose chemotherapy with autologous stem cell transplantation. In addition, I was several times at the inpatient clinical oncology department, where I participated in grand rounds. At IUSCC, I also attended seminars for fellows and tumor boards focused on genitourinary malignancies, prostate cancer and precision genomics, as well as other lectures and events (The Cancer Research Day and others). In my free time outside the hospital, I studied current literature recommended by the physicians I worked with. In addition, I learned how to work with the program REDCap to create databases and import data, and I also attended an official training at Indiana University (The REDCap Day). Thanks to this clinical observership, I had the opportunity to learn from the world experts in oncology, discuss with them and ask them, see many patients and various interesting clinical cases. At the same time, my stay abroad helped me to get out of my comfort zone and improve my communication in English.



Dr. Nabil Adra and his nurse Lianne

Possible Knowledge Transfer for the Improvements in Oncology in Slovakia:

I believe that the experience of a clinical observership abroad in the prominent American cancer center helped me to broaden my horizons and see oncology differently than before. Thanks to this experience, I hope that I can bring current knowledge and new practice to my home institution in Slovakia. Now, while working at the inpatient department, I think more about different aspects of malignancies and understand more the oncological management of our patients. At the same time, since I returned, I feel that I devote more time to talking with patients and to explaining all the important information about the diagnosis, the course of treatment and the next steps, as I saw it abroad. In addition, I try to tell my colleagues about my experience and motivate them to also go abroad and see how cancer centers work, and also learn a lot of new things. Thanks to the fact that I learned how to work with the REDCap, I can now create our own database of patients with germ cell tumors and import data from our older database into a new and clearer environment. Since I have met and remained in contact with specialists in the management of genitourinary malignancies, I will be able to contact them in the future for consultation and advice. I hope that this will also deepen the cooperation between Indiana University and the National Cancer Institute in Bratislava in the fields of education, clinical research, and publication activities.

Bratislava, 07/20/2023

Place and Date

Signature