

E. NOI FELLOWSHIP REPORT – LONG-TERM BENEFITS

NOI Fellowship Report concerning the evaluation of the long-term benefits must be sent no later than 12 months 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.

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:

Eva Bačová, MD.

Contact Address of the Home Institution:

Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, National Institute of Children's Diseases, Limbová 1, 83101, Bratislava

NOI Fellowship Title and Objectives:

Optimization of Asparaginase treatment in children with ALL: current status and perspectives

NOI Fellowship Dates:

2.5.2022 – 30.6.2022

Contact Address of the Host Institution:

Centro Maria Letizia Verga, University of Milano-Bicocca, Hospital S. Gerardo/Fondazione MBBM, Via Pergolesi 33, 20900 Monza, Italy

Overview of NOI Fellowship experience:

Thanks to the NOI grant support, I was able to participate in an internship abroad at a workplace focused on the treatment of pediatric hemato-oncological diseases in Monza from 2/5/2022 to 30/6/2022. The Center for Pediatric Hematology and Oncology in Monza (University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy) is one of the largest centers not only in Italy but also in Europe. Pediatric oncologists in this center, under the leadership of Prof. Carmelo Rizzari, work on clinical and translational research in the field of childhood leukemia with a special interest in both traditional and innovative treatment procedures. In addition to leukemias, they also treat lymphomas, myelodysplasias, histiocytosis, and other diseases from the ranks of non-oncological hematology. Prof. Rizzari is one of the leading figures in the world dealing with the impact of asparaginase on the treatment of childhood leukemia, and during my internship, I had the opportunity to discuss with him many aspects of its use, monitoring its activity and managing adverse effects. During the internship, I spent a long time in the inpatient department of pediatric hemato-oncology, where I participated in sessions with doctors and the entire team together with Italian colleagues I participated in patient examinations, differential diagnostic decisions, diagnostic procedures, examinations, and the insertions of central venous lines. Thanks to the participation in the same clinical study AIEOP-BFM ALL 2017 for the treatment of ALL, we were able to compare experiences and discuss together the most common problems and get inspired to solve them. In addition to the inpatient department, I spent part of my internship in the Daily Clinic, which was a great inspiration for me due to the huge amount of outpatient care and the minimization of the need for hospitalization so most patients can undergo almost all oncology treatment in an outpatient form. Once a week, a joint session of the Department of Oncology and Hematology and the Bone Marrow Transplantation Unit was held, where the clinical condition of patients and more demanding patient cases were discussed together with doctors from inpatient and outpatient clinics, from the Department of cytomorphology, immunophenotyping, and genetics. These meetings were led by Prof. Andrea Biondi, head of the pediatric clinic and one of leading experts in pediatric oncology in Europe.

Possible Knowledge Transfer for the Improvements in Oncology in Slovakia:

I have had the opportunity to present the experience, new knowledge, and inspiration from the internship in Monza in the form of a poster at the Days of Young Oncologists 2022, as well as at several seminars at my home workplace. We managed to implement several changes in therapy and supportive treatment, thanks to which we recorded a smaller number of adverse reactions and a reduction in the total time of hospitalization. We have expanded the spectrum of outpatient care at the Day Clinic, which increases the comfort of patients and at the same time reduces the total costs of hospitalization. We continue international cooperation thanks to the acquired contacts. A working visit of colleagues from Monza to our workplace is planned.

Place and Date

Bratislava, 30.6.2023

Signature