
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., PhD.

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:

Breast cancer - diagnosis, management and research (clinical observership)

NOI Fellowship Dates:

09/03/2024 - 09/30/2024

Contact Address of the Host Institution:

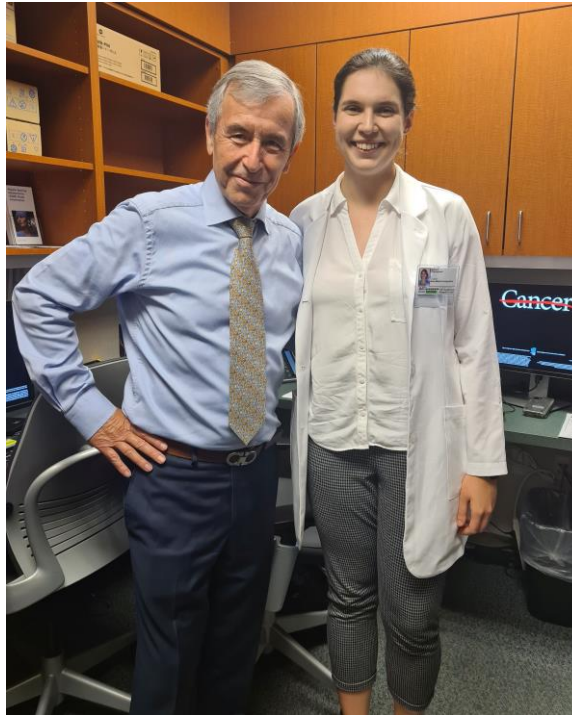
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
1515 Holcombe Blvd, Unit 1354, Houston, TX, USA

Overview of NOI Fellowship experience:

My one-month observership at MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC) in the Breast Medical Oncology Observer Program focused on the diagnosis, management, and research of breast cancer. The content of this observership primarily involved observing the work of physicians at the outpatient clinic of the Breast Medical Oncology department, discussing and consulting on individual clinical cases, and participating in interviews with patients and their families. My supervisor during this month was Prof. Vicente Valero, who specializes, along with his team, in inflammatory breast cancer. Other doctors I worked with included Dr. Aman Buzdar, Dr. Haven Garber, Dr. Rachel Layman, Dr. Jason Mouabbi, Dr. Azadeh Nasrazadani, Dr. Jasmine Sukumar, Dr. Mariana Chavez-MacGregor, and Dr. Banu Arun. I learned a lot about the management of early and metastatic breast cancer, as well as the specifics of treating lobular and inflammatory breast cancers. I also observed the transition of care to a separate clinic within MDACC, focused on long-term follow-up for cured patients (the "Survivorship clinic"). While working in the outpatient clinic, I had the opportunity to see the screening and enrollment of patients in clinical studies, as well as observe regular study visits. Each physician was always considering appropriate clinical trials for their patients. It was fascinating that, at almost any point in the course of treatment, a patient could be enrolled in a clinical trial. I also participated in "Multi-Teams," where a medical oncologist, breast surgeon, and radiotherapist met to discuss three new patients, whom they then examined together. Each specialist subsequently had a separate consultation with the patient. I found it particularly inspiring how well-informed patients were about their treatment plan and the individual steps ahead.

In addition to working in the outpatient clinics, I participated in the department's weekly seminars, known as "Journal Clubs," where one of the fellows presented a topic and discussed an interesting (and sometimes controversial) study, followed by a lively discussion. Once a week, I also participated in an online discussion of oncologists on more challenging clinical cases. In my free time outside the hospital, I dedicated myself to studying current literature on breast cancer, as recommended by the physicians I worked with. This observership provided me with an exceptional opportunity to learn from breast cancer specialists at one of the

world's largest and most renowned oncology centers. I was able to discuss cases, ask questions, and observe a wide range of patients and clinical scenarios.



Zuzana Országhová M.D., PhD. With Prof. Valero

Possible Knowledge Transfer for the Improvements in Oncology in Slovakia:

I believe that another experience abroad, such as this observership at a globally renowned American cancer center, has helped me broaden my horizons in oncology, particularly in the area of breast cancer. So far, in my work at the National Cancer Institute and during my PhD studies, I have primarily focused on germ cell tumors and genitourinary malignancies. However, this observership sparked a greater interest in a diagnosis like breast cancer. I am actively trying to follow new studies and articles in this field. I hope that thanks to my experience at MDACC, I can help bring the latest knowledge and practices to my home institution. I feel that since returning from this observership, I have gained a deeper understanding and I am reflecting more on the various aspects of managing breast cancer patients. I also try to spend more time talking with patients, explaining all the information regarding their diagnosis, treatment process, and next steps, as I saw the physicians abroad do. Additionally, I share my experience with my colleagues and want to encourage them to go abroad as well, so they can see how cancer centers around the world operate and learn many new things.

Moreover, I have established and maintained contact with experts in breast cancer management, whom I can reach out to in the future for advice and consultation. I believe this can also foster collaboration between MD Anderson Cancer Center and our National Cancer Institute in the field of education and clinical research.

Bratislava, 10/24/2024

Place and Date

Signature