

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 conference needs to be sent to grant@noisk.sk.

Name and titles of NOI Fellow:

Michaela Sojáková, M.D., PhD.

Contact Address of the Home Institution:

National Cancer Institute, II. Oncology Clinic LFUK and NCI, Klenova 1, Bratislava 831 10

NOI Fellowship Title and Objectives:

Gaining new experience in the diagnosis and treatment of soft tissue tumors and their subsequent application in clinical practice and management of our patients at the National Oncology Institute.

NOI Fellowship Dates:

09.01.2024 – 06.02.2024

Contact Address of the Host Institution:

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre – Gastric and mixed Tumor Service
1275 York Avenue New York NY 10065

Overview of NOI Fellowship experience:

- During my stay, I participated in surgical procedures under the guidance of Professor Singer and his colleagues from the Gastric and mixed Tumor (GMT) Service team. Surgical procedures were aimed at radical extirpation of tumors of mesenchymal origin in the limbs or retroperitoneum, GISTs, as well as malignant melanomas and Merkel cell carcinoma.
- I had the opportunity to attend outpatient clinic and consultations with Professor Singer and his colleagues from GMT (Dr. Aimee Craigo and Dr. Ned Bartlett), and also I could participate in outpatient clinical practice with clinical oncologists specializing in the treatment of soft tissue sarcomas – Dr. Sandra D'Angelo – one of the world experts for sarcomas treatment and main investigator of many sarcoma clinical trials and with her younger colleague - Dr. Lauren Banks, with whom I participated in the diagnostic-therapeutic process.
- Regularly once a week, I took part in multidisciplinary meetings via zoom where the histopathologic findings were discussed and the decisions were made regarding the inclusion of patients in clinical trials as well as diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. Also I participated in radiological-surgical pre-operative evaluation of patients which included discussions about the patients' disease eventually its progression and further planning of the treatment strategies.

Possible Knowledge Transfer for the Improvements in Oncology in Slovakia:

- Participation in the specialized fellowship in *Gastric and mixed Tumor Service* in MSKCC in New York City focused on the treatment of soft tissue sarcomas and GISTs has provided me with unique medical experiences that I have tried to implement in my everyday clinical practice.
- The knowledge, new treatment strategies as well as the perfect multidisciplinary cooperation I have observed during my fellowship give me the enthusiasm and chance to improve the patient's care in our institution

- We continue in the effort of multidisciplinary cooperation with our colleagues from pathology, surgery, radiotherapy and radiology as well, as this I consider to be one of the most important aspect of the treatment of these rare malignancies.
- Mutual sharing of the knowledge and clinical experiences contributes to the development of the professional team and inspire other colleagues to participate in the international fellowships, what is inevitable for further improvement of our medical practice.
- Thanks to the intership I have a connection and contacts with international experts, which give me the possibility to consult rare clinical cases and eventually participate in the international clinical trials.
- I have presented the experiences and inspirations from my fellowship in a lecture at the 2024 Young Oncologists' Days.

Place and Date

Bratislava, 5th of February 2025

Signature