



Research Networking Programmes

Short Visit Grant or Exchange Visit Grant

(please tick the relevant box)

Scientific Report

The scientific report (WORD or PDF file – maximum of eight A4 pages) should be submitted online within one month of the event. It will be published on the ESF website.

Proposal Title: Dr. Julija Radojicic

Application Reference N°: 6925

1) Purpose of the visit

In the period of 22-24 September 2014 I stayed in Bucharest, Romania, where I attended the International Conference “Development of multidisciplinary innovative strategies for the care of the Romanian individual with cleft lip and/or palate“. This event was a part of a collaborative project between “Carol Davila“ University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Bucharest, the University of Oslo and the “Romania Cleft“ Association. The aim of my visit was exploring the process of formation of the Cleft Team in Romania. Bearing in mind that in Serbia the formation of a centre for the treatment of children with clefts is at the very beginning, the experience of colleagues from Romania will be a valuable help to me in terms of faster and more efficient formation of Serbia Cleft Centre. In addition, Romania and Serbia are territorially, economically, socially and demographically very close, and thanks to that experience, now I can successfully overcome the difficulties which the Romanian team encountered during the formation of Cleft Centre. Besides, I had the opportunity to transfer innovative knowledge to Oslo Cleft Team members UMF “Carol Davila“ about cleft care, to introduce guidelines for good medical practice related to cleft treatment, and to elaborate an informative booklet for the parents of children with clefts.

2) Description of the work carried out during the visit

The International Conference in Bucharest once again gave me the opportunity to meet members of the Oslo Cleft Team, one of the most experienced cleft teams around the globe. Oslo Cleft team was led by a wonderful instructor and a great enthusiast Prof. Dr.

Gunvor Salmon, of whose life commitment to the cleft care we were reassured. And we felt great professionalism and knowledge with all the other members of her team, unselfishly passed during the conference: Prof. Dr Bill Shaw - Cleft Orthodontist, Prof. Dr Hallvard Andreas Vindenes - Cleft Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgeon, Dr Charles Philip - Cleft Plastic Surgeon, Nina Lindberg - Cleft Nurse Specialist, Dr Kristian Billaud Feragen - Cleft psychologist, Ragnhild Aukner - Speech Pathologist, Jorunn Lemvik - Speech Pathologist, Dr Elisabet Ronning - Cleft Orthodontist, and Dr Pal Skaare - Cleft Orthodontist.

On the other hand, I met the hosts of the event who are primarily responsible for the large enterprise taken in their country, forming Romania Cleft Team: Dr Radu-Iulian Spataru, Maxillofacial Surgeon and Dr Lidia Boboc, Orthodontist. Both are adorned with dedication to their work and enthusiasm which is common to all who deal with cleft care, including myself.

The meeting started with a lecture of Prof. Bill Shaw, who presented us the challenge of improving standards of cleft care. I had the opportunity to meet in person the professor who is most quoted in my master's thesis and doctoral dissertation, to my great satisfaction.

Prof. Gunvor Semb her contribution to this conference began with a lecture on the importance of International collaboration in cleft care. In the further course, she spoke about the history and development of the Oslo Cleft Team. She pointed to a large and long-standing effort that preceded the creation of the most organized cleft centre in the world. In doing so, she looked back at some of the significant years: 1937 - when the idea of creating a cleft centre in Norway was born; 1947 – when relations that children with clefts receive certain benefits in their treatment were regulated by law for the first time; 1977 – when the largest clinical progress was made, in terms of espousing that only a close cooperation between surgery and orthodontics can give good results in treatment. A large space in her speech was devoted to both clinical and scientific and research aspects of the treatment of children with clefts. And at this conference she gave us an opportunity to learn so much from her extensive and detailed lectures that arose out of her many years' work in this field, as well as to apply that knowledge in our countries so that patients with clefts are better treated. Certainly, in that way she made all of us doctors try to give our best in the field of treatment of children with clefts. At the same time, and no less important, is the conduct of research records. Prof. Gunvor thoroughly presented to us the intra-oral aspects and study models and Goslon Yardstick presented indices and everything else that is important to obtain estimates of orthodontic surgical success in treatment. Obtaining and collecting such data from every country of Europe is another way to improve training and treatment of children with clefts.

In the further course of the conference Prof. Gunvor presented the factors that influence the outcome of alveolar bone grafting. The study was conducted on a sample of 825 patients. In a further lecture she unselfishly transferred to us a 20 year follow-up of patients born with unilateral and bilateral cleft lip and palate. I consider her lectures a real treasury of knowledge.

I had the opportunity to meet Prof. Dr Elisabet Ronning and Dr Pal Skaare during my visit to Oslo. Even then I realized that they are exceptional professionals, and their lectures related to Orthodontic protocol and treatment and to Orthodontic surgery are priceless for me as an orthodontist, to which I go back whenever I am in a dilemma as far as my orthodontic treatment of patients with clefts is concerned. In addition, their attitudes greatly contribute the compatibility and durability of Oslo Cleft Team.

Within the lecture of Oslo Cleft Team, we had the opportunity to listen to an excellent surgeon Dr Charles Philip. Bearing in mind that I was not able to often hear about Pierre Robin's sequence, his lecture meant a lot to find out much more about this syndrome which is closely associated with cleft of the secondary palate. In a subtle way, documented with clinical displays, from the definition of PRS, the incidence (12% within the cleft of the secondary palate), through a number of problems related to the PRS (aesthetic, the problem of nutrition), Dr Charles presented the most important thing - treatment of children with PRS. Multidisciplinary aspects in 104 patients with PRS treated in Oslo Cleft Team, are a real treasury of knowledge, and they aroused a considerable interest in this issue at me.

Also, an interesting lecture was "Pierre Robin sequence-neonatal management" by Catalin Carstovenu.

Prof. Dr Andreas Hallvard Vindenes within the conference held two lectures: Primary surgery - Lip and palate closure and Alveolar bone grafting. Bearing in mind his many years of experience in the surgical treatment of clefts, I think it would be needless to say how it was useful for all of us to be present at the conference.

Among the other members of the Oslo Cleft Team, we had a chance to listen to Nina Lindberg, through The nurse's role in cleft care, Feeding babies, Follow-ups in pregnancy, pre and post operative care, and Ragnhild Aukner and Jorunn Lemvik in Cleft lip and palate - Influence and consequences for speech and language. For all three, I can say that they are good primarily as persons and that they also have a great contribution to the functioning of the Oslo Cleft Team.

The second part of the conference was dedicated to Eurocleft in Romania. My main aim of the visit was to meet the members of this team. Holders of Romania Cleft team are Dr Radu Spataru and Dr Lidia Bobok.

Dr Lidia Bobok from Cleft Romania is a member of the team, and is responsible for the formation of this team in her country. She primarily pointed to the issue of the treatment of children with clefts in Romania before the formation of the centre. Due to the existence of seven centres in Romania, of which three in Bucharest, and with different protocols of treatment, children with clefts did not receive adequate treatment. The initiative for the formation of centre came from the National symposium regarding the therapy of cleft lip and palate- Eurocleft project, that took place on 10th June, 2000. Throughout her lecture Dr Lidia presented long term objectives (proper centre organization, accreditation process for surgeons allowed, documentation standardization, large scale scientific research), as well as short term objectives, the most important documents set by the Romanian Health Minister and other processing documents related to the approval of the establishment of the centre, which is particularly important to me, because I am now familiar with the detailed procedures to be carried out in Serbia. She emphasized clinical level of Romanian Cleft team (fended off kamikaze foreign missions, collaboration with skilled cleft surgeons, strengthen bonds between professionals, with pseudo teams forms, started secondary alveolar grafting on our patients and orthodontic surgery for patients with clefts).

Dr. Radu Spataru, host of the conference and the main organizer of Cleft Team Romania, held a few lectures. The first lecture was related to the surgical approach that is used in their centre. He showed a period from the year 2004 to 2009, when a total of 229 children with cleft surgically were treated, whereas in 16.6% of the children it was necessary to do a secondary correction. Since 2009 collaboration with the Gothenburg team started, which has introduced new challenges in cleft surgery, and one of the innovations was delay of the repair of the hard palate. In the period from the year 2009 to

2013, according to new surgical principles, 238 patients were surgically treated. The lecture continued with clinical presentations of patients successfully resolved. In addition, this leading surgeon of the cleft team Romania spoke about the perennial dilemmas and challenges in oral surgery, and the ways to overcome them. Certainly, Dr Spataru made us all attendees think further in regard of successful treatment of children with clefts. I want to emphasize that I found at Dr Radu Spataru great enthusiasm, which resulted in the creation of the centre for rifts in his country.

3) Description of the main results obtained

- 1 Introduction to the process of the formation of the Cleft Team Romania;
- 2 Getting to know the members of Cleft Team Romania, exchange and dissemination of experience in regard to the treatment of children with clefts within EuroCleftnet;
- 3 The exchange of experience with the Cleft Team of Romania.

4) Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable)

Since there is no cleft care team centre in my country, all future actions will be directed towards establishing this centre. At the same time, protocol formation is planned, as well as consultation with Cleft team of Romania regarding the formation of the Centre for rifts in Serbia.

5) Projected publications / articles resulting or to result from the grant (*ESF must be acknowledged in publications resulting from the grantee's work in relation with the grant*)

Radojicic J, Tanic T, Pesic Z, Jovic N, Cutovic T, Filipovic G. Rare Disease: Lobar Holoprosencephaly With a Median Cleft Lip—Case Report. *Cleft Palate Craniofac J* 2015; 52(3) in press DOI: 10.1597/14-087

6) Other comments (if any)

The presence at the International Conference, Development of multidisciplinary innovative strategies for the care of the Romanian individual with cleft lip and / or palate, as well as the time spent in Bucharest depart from lectures at the conference, will be stucked in my memory. I am especially glad that I met the wonderful people, Dr Lydia Bolok and Dr. Radu Spataru. I am sure that we will continue to cooperate well in the field of exchange of experience in treating children with clefts.