

Report of the 2015 EFAS Travelling Fellowship

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We would like to begin by thanking the EFAS Fellowship Committee for awarding us this prestigious fellowship.

Heidelberg, Germany



Our fellowship commenced with a visit to Heidelberg, a city steep in great orthopaedic tradition and the home to a respected foot and ankle deformity correction surgeon. **Dr. Wolfram Wenz** was a kind host who was able to speak eloquently about the role of gait analysis in the pre- and post-operative assessment of lower limb reconstruction surgery. He was able to demonstrate several techniques including that of limited midfoot amputations. Dr. Wenz was kind enough to ensure that we ate at some of the finest restaurants that Heidelberg had to offer.

Lyon, France

Dr Marc Augoyard was a fantastic host who was ensured that we left our visit having been able to be involved in multiple surgeries ranging from the forefoot to the hindfoot. We were able to observe the “one screw@ and indeed the “screwless” scarf osteotomy. We were also able to observe PIP joint fusion via an intramedullary implant as well as the utilisation of midfoot soft tissue surgery for correction of the flexible hammer toe. We engaged in intellectually stimulating discussions with Dr Augoyard about topics as diverse as lesser ray plantar plate reconstruction to the role of minimally invasive surgery. Discussing these topics while on late night tours of the historic old town was delightful. As expected for the gastronomic capital of France, the food was particularly enjoyable. Our hosts ensured that we dined in only the finest restaurants.



Verona, Italy



Dr Bruno Magnan and **Dr Elena Samalia** were waiting for us at our third stop with a well thought out programme which allowed for attendance at the departmental daily trauma meeting with attendance at clinic and the operating room thereafter. We were able to meet a number of patients in the clinic who had had external fixation of calcaneal fractures with good results. We were able to discuss the operative technique and rehabilitation in detail.

In theatre, we were involved with up to 10 surgeries per day. There were a number of fascinating cases on the operating list which Dr Magnan and Dr Samalia were able to discuss in detail with us. We

observed percutaneous distal osteotomy of the first ray for hallux valgus deformity; the results were very impressive. We were also able to observe the treatment of brachymetatarsia with an external fixator. Our hosts were kind enough to discuss tips and tricks while performing a total ankle arthroplasty. The variety of cases was exceptional and allowed for a broad educational experience. We were also able to observe the training of residents in the institution; this is a topic that seems close to Dr Magnan's heart and he ensures that his residents are trained to a high standard. Dr. Magnan and his wife were kind enough to take us on a tour of Verona which is a truly stunning city. We were able to enjoy dinner at a particularly fine restaurant.

Genoa, Italy



Dr Samalia and her colleagues were kind enough to take us to Genoa for the final part of our fellowship. We attended the EFAS Advanced Symposium where a number of current and controversial topics were discussed in detail by some of the foremost surgeons in Europe.

Finally, we would like to thank EFAS for giving us this opportunity of meeting and learning from some of the most accomplished foot and ankle surgeons in Europe.