



The American Orthopaedic
Society for Sports Medicine



ESSKA-AOSSM DJO Travelling Fellowship 2017
1-22 July 2017

Godfather: Prof. Matteo Denti MD (Milano, Italy)
Fellows: Thomas Tischer MD (Rostock, Germany)
Guillaume Demey MD (Lyon, France)
Marcus Hofbauer MD (Vienna, Austria)

Our trip began on 1 July 2017, when we gathered at Frankfurt before flying to Virginia, to meet Dr Miller and Dr Brockmeier, a former AOSSM travelling fellow.

The next day, we went to Monticello outside Charlottesville, to see the home of Thomas Jefferson (who famously penned the 1793 Declaration of Independence). Later, we watched our very first polo match, at Martha's Vineyard with Dr Miller and the UVA faculty.

During our stay, we watched various surgeries by Dr Miller; an anterior tibial closing wedge osteotomy in a second revision ACL-reconstruction. Dr Brockmeier demonstrated his technique for arthroscopically-assisted biceps tenodesis, followed by an osteoarticular allograft transplantation of a big osteochondral lesion of the trochlea. During the academic session, our scientific presentations was followed by lively discussion.

The next morning began with an early drive to Washington D.C., accompanied Drs Miller and Brockmeier and faculty members. Our next host was Dr West, who was head team-physician for the Washington Nationals. There followed a baseball game, enlivened by hot-dogs and cold beers! In the afternoon, Dr Miller showed us the sights of Washington, followed by a roof-top bar's-eye view of 4th of July fireworks.

In Durham, North Carolina, Dr Alexander Creighton (UNC) was our host, an AOSSM travelling fellow from 2014, who arranged a tour of the wonderful university campus followed by a reception at the home of Dr Ned Amendola, with the faculty of the University of Duke and North Carolina.

The next morning, we had an OR observation at the University's outpatient centre, where we saw an arthroscopically assisted bankart repair, second-time lateral meniscal transplantation and a rotator cuff repair. After lunch, we had an academic session together with the faculty of Duke and UNC.

The next morning we were taken to the outpatient centre at the Duke University to shadow interesting cases followed by a visit to the wet lab where we performed a deepening trochleoplasty, lateral tenodesis and harvesting of a quad tendon. We spent our last day at the ocean to relax and recharge our batteries.

In Albuquerque, Dr Schenck arranged a wonderful welcome-BBQ dinner at the house of Dr Wascher and his wife Carlotta together with the residents and fellows of the University of New Mexico. This was our only opportunity, during the whole trip, to actually sojourn with our hosts. Dr Schenck and Dr Wascher did an amazing job, and made us feel at home.

The next morning started with an operating room observation, followed by an academic session with a good exchange of ideas. The last day we hiked to Tent Rocks National Monument, and relaxed at the Thousand Waves spa in Santa Fe. The evening was redolent with fine wines, not to mention the food and the friendship.

We then moved to Houston, where our hosts Dr Harner and Dr Linter presided over an academic session, and showed us their impressive research facilities and surgeries. In the wet lab we presented our techniques of PCL and ACL reconstruction. We were also able – and this was a rare privilege – to tour the NASA complex, guided by an astronaut who had recently come back from his six-month stay at the International Space Station. In the evening, we shared a wonderful dinner in a private suite at the baseball stadium of the Houston Astros.

Upon arrival in Toronto, we were directly taken to London, Ontario, to enjoy a wonderful BBQ dinner at the house of Dr Getgood. Unfortunately, it turned out that this would be the last evening for our friend Thomas Tischer, who had torn his quad-tendon while playing basketball...or maybe he'd just slipped on the ball. The next day he flew home for surgery in Germany. Anyway, we spent the next afternoon in the OR watching interesting cases.

During our stay, we visited the famous Niagara Falls, and then rode bikes through the local vineyards for a superb wine-tasting session. In the evening, we had an interesting academic session with the faculty of the MacMaster University, University of Toronto and Kennedy Fowler Center, presenting their rare and interesting cases and discussing possible treatment options. Next morning, we had

our last surgical observation with Dr Whelan, who performed a combined ACL, PCL and MCL reconstruction.

The fellowship tour ended with our last stop in Toronto where the AOSSM meeting took place. We were excited to meet up with all our hosts and friends we had met along the way. During the next days we attended the conference, Presidential dinner of the AOSSM, the Magellan society meeting - which we are affiliated to, and gave a short overview of our fellowship-tour.

In summary, we all have to admit that this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and we are deeply grateful to all of the hosts for their time, effort and wonderful hospitality. Every single stop was special to us, and we were not only enriched professionally but socially and culturally. We further believe that Prof. Denti, being our godfather, made this trip even more exciting. Six months ahead of the trip, he invited us – the fellows – to spend a weekend at his home in St. Moritz, where we got to know each other and planned this trip. Throughout the tour, he was a real Italian entertainer, not just for our hosts, but for all of us. As one host said, “He really is larger than life”. He was constantly trying to get the best out of this fellowship. We also believe that there was a very good chemistry between us fellows and that this will be a friendship for life.

This wonderful journey will certainly have a deep impact on our future life and we are humbled to now be a part of this “family”.

Our sincere thanks to DJO Global for their support of the scientific part of this travelling fellowship, to Prof. Denti for being such a wonderful godfather, to all our hosts and their families, the ESSKA Board and AOSSM, Debbie Czech for coordinating this fellowship and all others who made this special trip possible. We are looking forward to seeing you all again to host future travelling fellows at our centres.

See photos on the following page

