

ESMO Palliative Care Fellowship

(June 2018)

Marin Golčić

FINAL REPORT

Home Institute: Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka
Host Institute: The Royal Marsden Hospital

Introduction

I have spent my ESMO Fellowship in the Royal Marsden Hospital in June 2018. From the Day 1 I felt as I was a part of the team at the Royal Marsden. Every single person on the team, whether they were a nurse, a registrar or a consultant, were absolutely amazing. They spent their time explaining all of my questions, included me in the patient discussions and just thought about what they could do to make my experience better.

Goals or aims

- Learn about the organization of the Palliative Care in The Royal Marsden
- Observe ward rounds and MDT meetings
- Learn about the pharmacotherapy
- Learn about the research topics
- Observe patient clinics
- Establish personal and professional relationships

Description of the time spent at host institute

Shirley, the administrator, was incredibly helpful with organizing all the activities and especially with helping me see things which are performed at the Marsden, but which we don't have in Croatia. Although some of these activities were not on the initial schedule, everyone was more than happy to help me experience and observe them. During this month, I honestly felt like I wasn't a stranger, but a team-member, and I feel I've learned so much about palliative care, including end-of-life care, medications, and doses used in palliative care and the whole multi-disciplinary approach. I even served as a translator for a patient who did not speak English.

Conclusion

It is hard to pinpoint the single thing which made the most influence on me, but I was definitely impressed with how patients are treated. In this hospital, patients are truly the center of the care, and the staff will do anything they can to make patients and their families feel more comfortable, relaxed and happy, even celebrating the birthdays of the patients in the CCU. As one patient pointed out to one of the doctors: 'Talking with you, I felt like I was the only patient in this hospital'. Going the extra mile for patients is just the normal way of doing things in the Royal Marsden, and for me personally, that is probably the most important thing I've learned/experienced during this Fellowship and is something that I will try to implement in my career.

Acknowledgements

Other things I will also really cherish from this Fellowship are the amazing people I've met, and I really hope to keep in contact, both on the professional and personal level. All in all, I am truly grateful to the ESMO and the whole Palliative care team in the Royal Marsden for an amazing opportunity which will definitely have a profound impact on my future career.

