

IBRA scholarship in Ravensburg

Summary

After obtaining full qualification in general surgery, for the last three years I have specialized in traumatology. I have been a member of the traumatology team of the 1st Dept. of Surgery of General University Hospital in Prague affiliated with the Charles University. As the department is located in the very center of Prague our patients belong to higher age categories suffering typical fractures of elderly- e.g. fractures of wrist and hand, which we have to deal with in our everyday practice.

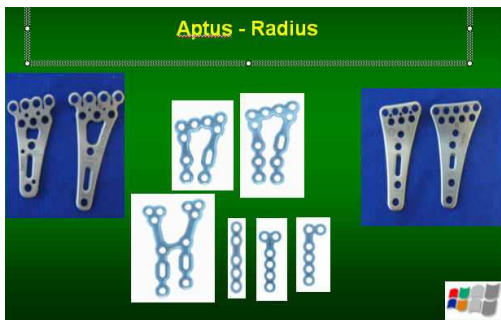


Contrary to the German practice- where a specialized team of fully qualified surgeons focused on hand/wrist surgery can be found in every larger hospital- the care of patients with an acute or chronic disease of hand is being split among surgeons, orthopedists and traumatology specialists. Thus, proper medical care of such patients is not standardized and there can be differences in quality of care depending on a particular health care facility.

Therefore, the IBRA scholarship that enabled me to spend two months at one of the best European hand-surgery units of Prof. Krimmer in Ravensburg was a unique opportunity for me. Professor Krimmer is a leading expert in the field who is respected for his contributions to the development of hand and wrist surgery also in the Czech Republic.

I arrived to Ravensburg at the beginning of October 2008 being welcomed by wonderful autumn weather of southern Germany and almost family atmosphere of Prof. Krimmer's hand surgery unit. From the first moments I felt as a part of the team and even the language barrier, I'd worried about, did not represent a problem. I was kept busy throughout my stay having the opportunity to assist operations as well as examine patients at the out-patients facilities of the unit.





Prof. Krimmer together with other surgeons were very helpful and they always answered all my questions thoroughly. The highlights of my stay were a workshop of Medartis company in Augsburg, where I could improve my practical experiences with Aptus hand and wrist and an excellent congress “All around the radius” held in Basel. The

knowledge and practical experience I have gathered during my stay forms a solid fundament I can develop and expand in my future work. During the two months in Ravensburg I could learn not only everyday routine work at a hand surgery unit - trigger finger, carpal tunnel syndrome, rhizartrosis, Dupuytren contracture, ganglioma ect., but also rare cases requiring highly specialized approaches and care- severe fractures of distal radius associated with ligament’s lesions, intraarticular fractures of metacarpals and phalanges. Very useful for me as a trauma surgeon was possibility to see surgical treatment of fresh fractures of scaphoid bone as well as solving nonunions. I must not forget very interesting salvage procedures SLAC or SNAC of the wrist and arthroscopic examination of the wrist which I plan to perform home as soon as possible. I’m taking back home 6 pages of notes, lot of pictures and clear concept what I want to do in the future.



Not only the educational purpose of my stay but also the “social” part were extremely pleasant. Ravensburg is a wonderful quiet place with splendid surroundings I could explore in my spare time. I particularly enjoyed a bike trip to Konstanz, visit to the Zeppelin Museum in Friedrichshafen or a mountain hike in the near Austrian Alps. Together with Prof. Krimmer and other members of the hospital staff we regularly played basketball – without any rules but we did enjoy it. I have to confess the two months were too short and I will never forget about the time Ravensburg.

Let me express my thanks and acknowledgement to the IBRA for its generous support and particularly to Mrs. Cserpnyak for helping me with organizational matters. Most of all I would like to thank to Professor Krimmer and the whole team of hand surgery unit in the Ravensburg center for all their help and friendly welcome. I will always be happy to come back.

....Danke prof. Krimmer , Christian , Ralf, Helgrid , Sophie, Heike, Yvonne...,
danke liebe Schwaben



**Professor Dr. Hermann
Krimmer** hatte Dr. Josef Kraus
(links) aus Prag und Dr. Alvaro
Baik Cho aus Sao Paulo zu
Gast. Bild: OSK

In Ravensburg 27 Nov 2008

Yours sincerely

Dr. Josef Kraus