

Professor Dr Tateyuki

Lizuka Chairman

IBRA Education Committee

Subject: **IBRA-Fellowship Program (B) - Report Dr Siddiqi**

Dear Sir,

I was granted an *International Bone Research Association* (IBRA) Fellowship in the 2009 program (B), which allowed me to spend ten weeks at the Klinikum der Johann wolfgang Goethe-Universitate, Frankfurt Mian in the Department of Craniomaxillofacial and Plastic Surgery under the supervision of one of the most experienced research scholar in this field, Prof Robert Sader. This is a great honor, and I feel privileged being associated with IBRA as an IBRA scholar.

In my opinion, IBRA, through these Fellowships, offers great opportunities of scientific exchanges especially for early career scientists who often do not have the means to fund their own research yet. The IBRA Fellowship is helping to promote science and essentially they are funding research without any string attached, which can really help a young researcher. The beauty and high efficiency of this fellowship is based on the way it is organized.

IBRA Fellowship gave me a perfect opportunity to advance my knowledge and to get practical skills in Maxillofacial & Oral Surgery. I am lucky to have been surrounded by extraordinary mentors and peers during all stages of my fellowship. In particular, I would like to thank Professor Sader. I observed several interesting Cranio-maxillofacial & Plastic Surgery procedures. The operations that I have attended and my interactions with the consultants here have only served to increase my passion for

maxillofacial & Oral Surgery. In particular, I would like to thank Professor Sader for his invaluable support and advice throughout the past ten weeks. I am also thankful to PD Dr Landes, Dr Seitz, Dr Jorg and Dr Belma for their guidance and un-conditional support throughout the fellowship.

My personal experience has been fully positive: I was able to benefit from a kind of "sabbatical" period during which I could develop interesting ideas for my work and collaborate with brilliant surgeons who highly enriched my know-how and my experience.

The Fellowship was a great career boost for me. I learned an enormous amount including a number of new techniques. The networking in particular was really good and a great opportunity for someone from a relatively remote country to form strong and productive collaborative bonds. I also think the Fellowship and the work conducted during it in part helped me secure a tenured academic lectureship. I hope governments and funding institutions all around the world will continue in supporting IBRA and, in particular, the IBRA educational program.

Seeing the research process in a country other than my own gave me a new perspective, helping me to better understand what I can do as a young researcher to further facilitate international collaboration.

I am confident that my experiences have made me a better surgeon and will enable me to participate in future international collaborative work. I am incredibly grateful to IBRA for providing me with this opportunity, and I know that it will continue to benefit my research career both until the end of my post-graduate studies and beyond.

I recommend this course to young scientists and researchers as a truly interdisciplinary approach in studying Maxillofacial and Oral surgery. This course has changed my life!

Let me pay special thanks to Prof Robert Sader, who nominated me as an IBRA scholar and also to the IBRA education committee who accepted my scholarship application. I am very grateful and feel privileged.

Thank you IBRA so much for your support! IBRA is great!

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