

IBRA scholarship report – program B

Training Center: Department of Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery, Amiens, France

Fellowship Director: Professor Sylvie Testelin

Head of Department: Professor Bernard Devauchelle

Duration of scholarship: 4 weeks

Fellow: DDr. Emanuel Bruckmoser, Innsbruck, Austria

Innsbruck, in April 2015



After applying for an IBRA scholarship (program B) in summer 2014 I was very happy to learn a few months later that my application had been accepted giving me the chance to visit the Department of Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery, University Hospital of Amiens (France), for a total duration of four weeks.

Amiens is a nice city of around 135.000 inhabitants situated about 120 kilometers north of Paris. Since there is no international airport in Amiens I took a flight to Paris and then continued my journey by train to get to Amiens. There is a direct connection from the north railway station in Paris ("gare du nord") to Amiens main station with the fastest trains taking a bit more than one hour.

The main attraction of Amiens is certainly its magnificent gothic cathedral which is the largest of its kind in France and also belongs to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Apart from this monumental building there is the tower of Perret next to the main station which was one of the first skyscrapers built in Europe being the highest at that time. The most famous person who has spent much of his life in Amiens is undoubtedly the French novelist and poet Jules Verne whose grave can be found at the Madeleine Cemetery. The main university of Amiens is named after this important French writer (Université de Picardie Jules-Verne).

Since autumn 2014 the Department of Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery (CMF) – as most of the other departments of the University Hospital of Amiens – is located in the so called "hôpital sud" (south hospital) a few kilometers outside the inner city. As this hospital is a completely new building it is obviously very modern and well equipped. The CMF clinics are situated on the ground floor whereas the respective ward can be found on the third floor. There is a big area with a great number of operating theatres on the second floor of the hospital. One of these operating theatres is exclusively used by CMF surgeons, and at certain days of the week there is an additional theatre available.

Considering that the very first face transplantation worldwide was done in this department I expected to see a lot of facial surgery and reconstructive procedures including both local flap and free flap microvascular surgery. As shown in the following summary of my 4-weeks scholarship this is exactly what I had the pleasure to watch and to assist.

First week

Monday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- main theatre (GA: general anesthesia): face lift plus lipofilling of upper lip
- main theatre (GA): lipofilling of ear and cheek
- out-patient clinic: trauma patients and others
- afternoon ward round

Tuesday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): nasal reconstruction with radial free forearm flap (RFFF)
- afternoon ward round

Wednesday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): lipofilling face and pharynx in a cleft patient

- main theatre (GA): bimaxillary orthognathic surgery
- main theatre (GA): unilateral selective neck dissection

Thursday

- 7.15h: case presentations by resident, discussion of treatment options
- morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): bimaxillary orthognathic surgery
- 14h: interdisciplinary tumor board meeting
- 16.30: staff meeting with discussion of patients to be operated the following week
- afternoon ward round

Friday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): temporalis myoplasty in a patient suffering from facial nerve palsy
- main theatre (GA): aesthetic and functional rhinoplasty
- afternoon ward round

Second week

Monday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): frontal bone deformity correction
- main theatre (GA): nasal deformity correction including cartilage grafting
- out-patient clinic: trauma patients and various follow-ups
- afternoon ward round

Tuesday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): resection of oral squamous cell carcinoma, bilateral selective neck dissection, reconstruction with RFFF
- afternoon ward round

Wednesday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): rhinoplasty with calvarian bone graft
- out-patient clinic with Prof. B. Devauchelle
- afternoon ward round

Thursday

- 7.15h: oral presentation by Prof. B. Devauchelle
- morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): correction of ectropion with cheek advancement flap
- 14h: interdisciplinary tumor board meeting
- afternoon ward round
- 17.00: staff meeting with discussion of patients to be operated the following week

Friday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): removal of carcinoma left ear, reconstruction with local flap
- main theatre (GA): open reduction internal fixation zygomatic/orbital floor fracture
- afternoon ward round

Third week

Monday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- out-patient theatre (LA: local anesthesia): bilateral scar correction after face lift
- out-patient theatre (LA): removal of basal cell carcinoma on eyelid, local flap
- main theatre (GA): commissuroplasty corner of the mouth (multiple z-plasties)
- afternoon ward round

Tuesday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): removal of giant mandibular ameloblastoma using a combined intra-/extraoral access, reconstruction with iliac crest microvascular flap

Wednesday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- out-patient theatre (LA): tumor excision cheek, reconstruction with local flap
- out-patient theatre (LA): biopsy of temporal artery bilaterally
- main theatre (GA): rhinoplasty
- main theatre: panendoscopy
- out-patient clinic with Prof. B. Devauchelle
- afternoon ward round

Thursday

- 7.15h: presentation of bone substitute material by TBF (tissue bank of France)
- morning ward round
- out-patient theatre (LA): commissuroplasty corner of the mouth (z-plasty)
- out-patient theatre (LA): removal of tumor frontoparietal region
- interdisciplinary tumor board meeting
- staff meeting with discussion of patients to be operated the following week
- afternoon ward round

Friday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): rhinoplasty
- main theatre (GA): rhinoplasty
- afternoon ward round

Fourth week

Monday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): lipofilling in patient with hemifacial microsomia
- main theatre (GA): calvarian bone graft for rhinoplasty and maxillary augmentation
- afternoon ward round

Tuesday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): mandibular body reconstruction with microvascular lateral chest flap including rib graft

Wednesday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): reconstruction of eyelids, placement of expansion prosthesis scalp
- afternoon ward round

Thursday

- 7.15h: presentation of orbital floor fractures (overview + case report) by medical student
- morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): Abbe flap lip, placement of implants for epithesis nose
- main theatre (GA): partial reconstruction of nose with local forehead flap
- staff meeting with discussion of patients to be operated the following week

Friday

- 8.15h: morning ward round
- main theatre (GA): resection of elongated styloid process by intraoral access
- main theatre (GA): iliac crest graft for pseudoarthrosis after previous BSSO
- main theatre (GA): rhinoplasty
- afternoon ward round

Closing this brief report of my IBRA scholarship I would like to thank Professor Testelin and Professor Devauchelle for welcoming me in their department, and for giving me the opportunity to see a lot of interesting facial surgery procedures which I did not have much exposure to in my CMF training so far. During the whole visit I have always had the feeling to be most welcome, and it was definitely a great pleasure to benefit from the enormous expertise the surgeons working in this department are famous for.

Finally I would like to express my gratitude to the International Bone Research Association for their financial support enabling me to spend this instructive scholarship which was an enriching experience from both a professional as well as a cultural and personal point of view.

Emanuel Bruckmoser