

IBRA scholarship report

Training Center: Dept. of Oral, Cranio-Maxillofacial and Plastic Facial Surgery, Frankfurt University.

Head of Department: Prof. Dr. Dr. Dr. Robert Sader

Scholar: DDS - OMS Carlos Arturo Herrera Vizcaíno

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Home hospital: Domingo Luciani's Hospital, Caracas, Venezuela.

Program C: Clinical and scientific residential stay at a foreign host institution

This program containing both clinical training and active participation in a research project or literature review with possible publication, is designed for promoting an academic career.

Duration of scholarship: 12 weeks (March – June 2016)



Frankfurt, July 2016

I recently finished my training program and as a young maxillofacial surgeon I can say that after being in the department of oral, maxillofacial and plastic surgery of the Goethe University of Frankfurt, which is greatly led by Prof. Robert Sader and Dr. Shahram Ghannati, I gained a huge amount of experience and confidence in all areas of the speciality. Reason why I address a sincere thanks to them for making me feel welcome at all times and of course to IBRA for promoting the enhancement of my career through this scholarship.

The Goethe University of Frankfurt is ranked as one of the best universities in Germany and is recognized for its scientific contributions. It is located in the federal state of Hesse, in the city of Frankfurt am Main. The city is known for being very cosmopolitan and a huge financial site. Throughout my stay, I had the opportunity to enjoy the city and get a real feeling of the German way of life.

The department of oral, maxillofacial and plastic surgery is a reference center in the Federal state of Hesse, it counts with 31 beds and 4 operating rooms where elective surgeries are held from Monday to Friday with a 24 hour emergency service. It covers all aspects of the speciality (Orthognathic surgery, Implantology, Trauma surgery, Cleft lip and palate, Craniosynostosis, Distraction osteogenesis, Tumor and Oncology surgery) with emphasis in oncology surgery and reconstruction. The clinical treatments are closely linked to scientific research, which allows for quickly integrated advancements into therapeutic practice.

During my time in the operating room I had the opportunity to learn and share my opinions with all the doctors of the department, who were opened to questions and always interested in the ways surgeries are done in my home hospital. I can say with a smile in my face that this is not a place to come for tourism, since work is at most. In the course of the 3 month of my stay, I was assigned to more than 180 cases, as a 1st or 2nd assistant, so if you want get the most out of your scholarship, come to Frankfurt.

I believe that what makes great surgeons are the sum of techniques picked out throughout the years and put in practice according to a patient's need. There is a lot I will take home, for example:

Trauma surgery: The right placement of the first incision is crucial to avoid entropion in transconjunctival approach, the use of PDS sheets to manage orbital fractures, placement of drainage in orbital floor to avoid retro-orbital hematoma, lacrimal duct repair.

Tissue engineering: The design of customized implants using CAD and 3D printing, the use of different protocols of protein rich fibrin (PRF) available.

Plastic surgery: Otoplasty, rhinoplasty and reconstruction of nasal defects using auricular cartilage graft.

Oncology: Neck dissection and reconstruction with pectoralis major muscle flap and forehead flap for nasal reconstruction.

Cleft lip: Tennison Randall and Millard technique.

Under the patronage of Prof. Dr. Robert Sader is also the FORM (Frankfurt Orofacial Regenerative Medicine) – Lab, which focus is tissue engineering and biomaterial. Guided by Dr. Shahram Ghanaati I was allowed to participate in several experiments in cell processing, histologic analysis and animal models being conducted in the lab. There are researches in the lab from all over the world willing to teach and doing great research.

The teams from the department and the lab made my stay in Germany very pleasant. We would often arrange to go out after work for a traditional German food and drinks, where stories and knowledge of our cultures were shared. I gained a lot professionally and personally as I could build up friendships for the future.

The purpose of IBRA is promoting an academic career and this was definitely achieved during my scholarship. I am looking forward to obtaining a PhD position and continue on the research pathway.

Thanks for all the support