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**IBRA Scholarship "B" at Lorenz Böhler Trauma Hospital Vienna, Austria**
**Scholarship date: 20.02.2017-10.03.2017**
**Fellowship Director: Dr. Martin Leixnering**

I had the unique opportunity to visit Lorenz Böhler Trauma Hospital as an "IBRA" fellow. My goal of that scholarship was to enhance knowledge of hand surgery, especially in the areas of fractures, instability and posttraumatic changes of the wrist.

In general the Hospital works as a Trauma-Center and it is adequately equipped. It consists of four wards for trauma and orthopedic patients and also one intensive care department. There are four operative rooms working every day from 8:00 to 14:30 (usually one of them is busy up to the evening). Ordinarily for at least one OR only hand surgical cases are planned.
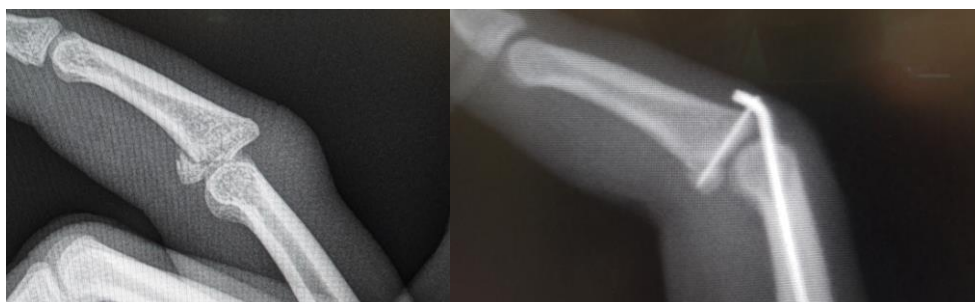
Division of the work is also noteworthy. There are a number of scientific teams (including the Hand Team). From each scientific team one member is assigned to the "working" teams as independent surgeon. Working teams are cyclical changing for duties, outpatient clinic or operative room.

During my stay I spent most of time with Dr. Leixnering and Dr. Pezzei, but I also had occasion to work and discuss with Dr. Beer and Dr. Jurkowitsch. Correspondence with Dr. Keuchel before my arrival was very helpful, I got all the instructions and schedule for the time of my stay.

In the Hospital you can see many trauma cases as well as elective surgery, but also malformations. Despite of large amount of work, Dr. Leixnering and Dr. Pezzei always had time to discuss interesting topics as well as answering to all of my questions. The education process was additionally supported by the impressive computer system with database of all patients including pre and postoperative diagnostic images, precisely collected documentation, and photographs documenting treatment processes. I admire the effort, that the Hand Team puts to collect all of the data. It enables immediate view in patient history for eventually later treatment and it is a base of documentation which can be used for education and scientific purposes.

Below I would like to present the most interesting cases, which certainly will influence on my future practice.
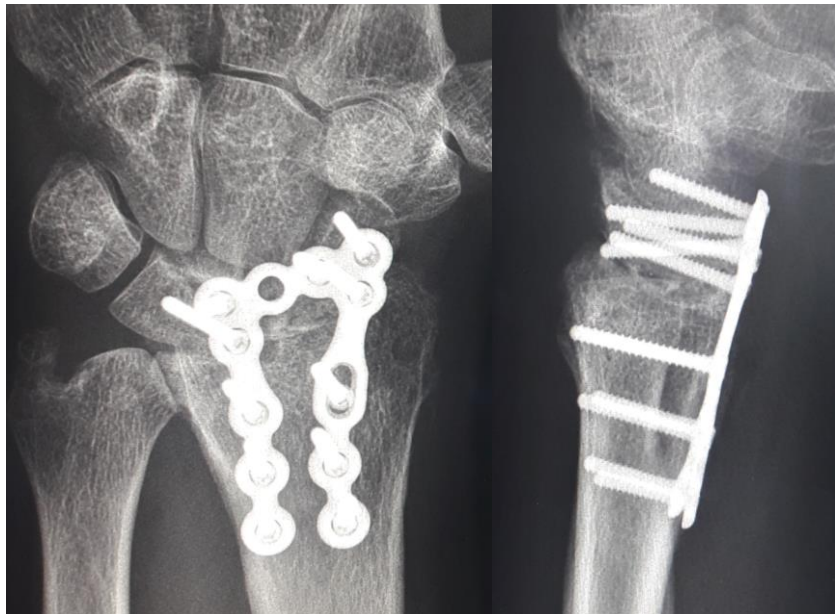
1. Extension block pinning for unstable proximal interphalangeal joint fracture dislocations which is a good alternative for more invasive procedures.

2. I have seen several scaphoid surgeries including angular stable plating for pseudoarhrosis. Cancellous bone graft from iliac crest are used. Plating of scaphoid provides good stabilization and union rate, it is also useful in case of any revision surgeries. Shockwave therapy is used immediately after surgery for increasing union rate.



3. RSL wrist arthorodesis is an movement preserving option for patients with arthritic changes of radiocarpal joint.



At the last week of my stay I had unusual occasion to participate in the "Handgelenk Kurs - Basis". Educational advantages of that course are invaluable. I truly recommend it for expanding knowledge and improving practical skills in the wrist surgery.

I can really recommend the Lorenz Böhler Trauma Hospital for young doctors interested in hand and wrist surgery. Due to Dr. Leixnering and Dr. Pezzei I have got the wider view for wrist disorders and treatment possibilities.

There is a possibility of renting room in the Hospital on an attractive price. I can also recommend very nice apartment, which I used during my stay (15 minutes by walk from Hospital).

At the end I would like to thank the IBRA for supporting me. Many thanks to Dr. Leixnering, Dr. Pezzei, all the Hand-Team and friendy staff of the Hospital. During my stay I met with hospitality and willingness. Special thanks to fellow from Panama – Lillivett Jean Louis for good company and cooperation during our stay.

Below on the photo there are( from the left): me, Dr. Wolfgang Hintringer, Dr. Lillivett Jean Louis, Dr.Christoph Pezzei, Dr. Martin Leixnering – thank you all!