

The Orthopaedic forum 2011 Austrian-Swiss-German traveling fellowship tour summary

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Traveling Report

From January 31st to March 11th 2011 four traveling fellows representing the German speaking associated orthopaedic societies visited different academic orthopaedic centers in the U.K., Canada and the USA.

Recruiting emerging leaders in orthopaedic surgery, the prestigious ASG fellowship was initiated in 1978 in the German speaking countries and was officially integrated in the AOA fellowship program in 1984. Promoting an academic exchange between the English and the German speaking countries, every second year two orthopaedic surgeons from the U.S.A., one from Canada and one surgeon from the U.K. are visiting Switzerland, Austria and Germany.^{1,2} Based on this tradition for more than 30 years, the AOA-ASG fellows represent a special leadership community within the different orthopaedic societies.

In spring 2011 the English speaking countries were visited. The German speaking ASG fellows consisted of Catharina Chiari from Vienna (Austria, A), a specialist in pediatric orthopaedics and cartilage repair, as well as Sandro F. Fucentese from the Uniklinik Balgrist in Zürich (Switzerland, S), who is mainly focused on knee and shoulder surgery. The two German (Germany, G) traveling fellows were Joern W.P. Michael from Cologne, who is mainly focused on total joint replacement, sports medicine and trauma surgery as well as Marcus Jäger from Düsseldorf, an expert on adult reconstruction and joint replacement surgery, who is dedicated to a chair position at the University in Duisburg-Essen (Germany, G) (Figure 1).

Starting on January 31th in U.K., the fellows visited 20 different academic orthopaedic departments in 14 cities (Table 1). All hosts provided academic lectures, tours of clinics, campus and research laboratories as well observation time in the OR, allowing an excellent scientific and personal exchange. In addition and dependent on the duration of stay and local facilities, a cultural program was provided by the hosts. Following the ASG tradition, one week was spent in U.K. and in Canada respectively, followed by four weeks in the USA, including the AAOS meeting in San Diego. In 2011 the main focus was on orthopaedic centers at the north east coast of the United States.

The tour started with a very warm welcome in London enjoying an very informative English breakfast with Mike Kimmons, CEO of the British Orthopaedic Association (BOA) and his assistant Reena Kaur, who we want to thank especially for the perfect organization of our trip in the UK. At the same day we took a coach to Oxford and were taken on a tour through this beautiful city by Martin McNally personally. Here, we could feel the academic spirit that lies over universities and campus. This was followed by a high level scientific session at the Nuffield Musculoskeletal Research Centre (The Botnar Research Centre), which gave an impressive overview of the wide field of research performed there. Two interesting aspects in total joint replacement had been highlighted: one was about the philosophy to prefer cemented implant even in younger patients, the other was to use pharmacological DVT prophylaxis only if additional risk factors were known. Thereafter we were invited to Peter McLardy-Smith's home and had a very entertaining dinner with the consultants of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospital in the countryside. As one special focus in Oxford lies on musculoskeletal infection, it was a special pleasure to enjoy an infection symposium next morning and to visit the bone infection unit.

On February 1st the ASG fellows continued by train to Bristol and visited the Avon Hospital, where we had the opportunity of scientific discussions with Ashley Blom and Martin Case and other renowned researchers of the institution. Dr. Blom took us on a sight-seeing tour to the famous Suspension Bridge built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. In the evening we enjoyed England's favorite dish – an Indian Curry - together with our great host Fergal Monsell and the medical team of the British Royal Hospital for Children. On the next day we spent in the OR with Dr. Monsell and his team observing complex deformity corrections. After a train ride back to London we had the great opportunity to meet Dr. Haddad at University Colleges of London (UCL) and discussed interesting cases with his team followed by an exclusive faculty dinner.

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On February 3rd the ASG fellows spent the day with Dr. Emery at St. Mary's Hospital. The fellows enjoyed observing his shoulder outpatient clinic and had a nice Chinese dim sum lunch with the whole team. Dr. Emery also took us for a tour to the Imperial College campus, where we visited the impressive bioengineering research facilities. Finally the ASG fellows took a nice walk through Knightsbridge ending at Harrod's for a cup of tea. On the next day we joined Fares Haddad in the OR, observing demanding knee surgeries. It was interesting that unicompartimental knee replacement is about 30% of all total knee implants at UCL.

After lunch, one of his fellows, Benan Dala-Ali, took us on a walking tour through London and showed us the hot spots of the city. In the evening we enjoyed a great dinner in the beautiful setting of the Somerset House. Finally we took the great opportunity to visit the London Eye, a walk through Central London and a tour to the Houses of Parliament. On February 6th we left London for continuing the trip to North America. From this point we had the great opportunity to give presentations on every visited center. Catharina Chiari was presenting the long-term results of the Chiari pelvic osteotomy as well as experimental results of meniscus tissue engineering, whereas Sandro Fucentese gave lectures on trochleoplasty and shoulder total joint replacement for treatment of complex proximal humerus fractures. Joern Michael's presentations included primary total hip replacement in DDH and high hip dislocation as well as revision hip arthroplasties. Marcus Jäger's lectures were about joint preserving surgery in femoroacetabular impingement and osteoarthritis as well as in stem cell application for bone healing.

The first stay after leaving UK was in Canada at the University of Ottawa, where we had a warm welcome by Dr. Dervin and his team - even in a -20°C environment (windchill -30°C). During the next days and dependant on personal preference the ASG fellows had the great opportunity to spend time in the OR with Dr. Dervin (joint replacement), Dr. Beaulé (hip

Table 1. BWH, Brigham and Women's Hospital; MGH, Massachusetts General Hospital; HSK, Hospital for Sick Children; TWH, Toronto Western Hospital; AAOS, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons; Univ.: University; TJR, Total joint replacement; ALVAL, aseptic lymphocyte dominated vasculitis associated lesion; UMass, University of Massachusetts.

City	Department	Chair*/official Host†	Duration of visit (days)	Orthopaedic highlights
1 Oxford, U.K.	Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre	M. McNally*, †	2	Infection symposium, social program
2 Bristol, U.K.	Avon Orthop. Department	Blom*, †	1	Basic research on ALVAL
	Children's Hospital	...*, F Monsell†	1	Deformity correction
3 London, U.K.	London Imperial College	F. Haddad*, †	5	Adult reconstruction, TJR
	St. Mary's	R. Emry*, †	5	Shoulder surgery, campus tour
4 Ottawa, CAN	University of Ottawa	G. Dervin*, †	4	Adult reconstruction, TJR, research (osteimmunology)
5 Toronto, CAN	Sunnybrook's, TWH, HSK	B.A. Alman*, †, A. Yee†	2	Orthopaedic trauma, pediatric orthopaedics
6 San Diego, USA	AAOS	-	6	Emerging Leadership Program (AOA), ASG fellows dinner
7 Iowa City, USA	University of Iowa	J. Buckwalter*, L. Marsh†	2	TJR, sports medicine, academic lectures
8 Omaha, USA	University of Nebraska	KL Garvin*, S. Scherl†	2	Pediatric orthopaedics
9 Baltimore, USA	Johns Hopkins Univ. Univ. of Maryland	E.G. McFarland, K. Weber V. Pellagrini, R. O'Toole	2	Trauma facilities
10 Boston, USA	BWH	T.S. Thornhill*, †	1	TJR, academic lectures, grand rounds
	MGH	H.E. Rubash*, †	1	TJR, ether dome lecture
	Children's Hospital	J. Kasser*, M. Millis†	1	Pediatric and young adult hip reconstruction
11 Burlington, USA	Lahey Clinic, BU	W.B. Heally* / R. Iorio†	1	TJR & Trauma
12 Worcester, USA	Umass	D. Ayers*, †	2	Academic lectures, trauma and research facilities
13 New York, USA	Hospital for Joint Diseases	J. Zuckerman*, †	3	TJR, social and academic program
14 Providence, USA	Brown University	M. Ehrlich*, RM Terek†	2	

reconstruction), Dr. Willis (pediatric orthopaedics), and Dr. Werier (tumor and foot surgery). Furthermore we visited the research facilities including the Cancer Center, the Cadaver Lab and at least the Orthopaedic Research Lab where we had a scientific exchange with Dr. Catelas, a biologist who is mainly focused on osteoimmunology and tissue engineering. It was a special honor to meet also the former chair of the department, Dr. Uthoff who is still involved in research at the University. In the evening we were able to acknowledge the pretty ice sculptures next to the canal at the winterlude festival.

The next stop was Toronto, where the ASG fellows arrived on February 10th and went for the grand rounds the next morning at the Women's College Hospital Auditorium. After a nice introduction by Dr. Alman, Dr. Gross and Dr. Yee this was followed by a visit at the different centers. Dr. Fucentese spent time with Dr. McKee at St. Michaels Hospital, Dr. Michael visited the Toronto Western Hospital and enjoyed total joint replacements with Dr. Davey, whereas Dr. Chiari spent some hours in the OR with Dr. Wedge for a Salter osteotomy at the Hospital for Sick Children. Dr. Jäger went with Dr. Yee to the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and watched Dr. Jenkinson



Figure 1. The ASG Fellows 2011: Catharina Chiari, Department of Orthopaedics, Medical University of Vienna, Austria (a), Sandro F. Fucentese, Orthopaedic Department, Uniklinik Balgrist, Zürich, Switzerland (b), Joern W.P. Michael, Orthopaedic and Trauma Department, Cologne University, Germany (c), Marcus Jäger, Orthopaedic Department, University of Düsseldorf, Germany (d).

fixing a severe acetabular fracture. Afterwards Dr. Jäger had also an appointment and informative talk with Dr. Tile, the former chair and first AO president outside Europe. Afterwards the research facilities were visited, where we met Dr. Akens, who is strongly focused on the photodynamic treatment of bone tumors but also involved in new implant designs for minimal invasive application and on fracture research.

On the weekend the ASG fellows took the

opportunity to visit one of the highest buildings in the world, the CN-tower and went for a sightseeing tour to Niagara falls on the Canadian site.

On February 14th we left Canada and took a plane to San Diego, where we celebrated Dr. Michael's birthday at the Gaslamp Quarter. For the next 6 days the ASG fellows visited the AAOS conference including symposia, instructional courses and scientific lectures. On February 20th we had a warm welcome at the

emerging leadership reception by the AOA fellowship program director, Dr. Marsh as well as by the AAOS president, Dr. Callaghan. It was also a special pleasure to meet our American Co-fellows colleagues Dr. Scherl, Dr. Iorio and Dr. Hard.

On February 20th 2011 we left San Diego, except for Dr. Jäger who went for an uncommon and unplanned trip along the west coast caused by 3 kg overweight baggage (finally he arrived also safely in Iowa City after 24 h). After a nice faculty dinner, we had different academic presentations including our hosts, Dr. Marsh and Dr. Callaghan. It was impressive to visit the biomechanical and cell research facilities as well as the new Sports Medicine Center at the University of Iowa which is led by Ned Amendola. From this point all fellows were infected by the Haweyke virus and became besides ASG- also Hawkeyes-Fellows. We want to express our special thanks to the program director Dr. Marsh as well to the department administrator Paul Etre for the perfect organization of the journey.

On February 22nd we took a plane to Chicago. At this time, Dr. Jäger went back to Munich for an urgent interview appointment at the University, but returned immediately afterwards to proceed with the ASG traveling fellowship, whereas the rest of the fellows arrived at the University of Nebraska in Omaha, where one of the former AOA-ASG Fellows, Dr. Scherl hosted us.

After a 3h delay we finally arrived in Omaha/Nebraska where Susan Scherl welcomed us at the airport. We had a lovely private dinner at her house with the famous *Wiener Schnitzel* among other things. On the next morning we met Dr. Garvin, Chair of the Orthopaedic Department at the Nebraska Medical Center. After the presentation of our scientific talks we spent some time in the OR and the clinic, which was followed by lunch at a French bistro at the Old Market in Omaha. Susan Scherl arranged a private guided tour through the well-known zoo where we made the first experience with caressing penguins. This exciting day ended with a very nice dinner having famous Omaha steaks.

On Thursday, Feb, 24th we travelled to Baltimore. We first visited the Johns Hopkins University and met Dr. McFarland, also a former AOA-ASG fellow and walked up the stairs to the dome enjoying the view all over Baltimore. We had a lovely dinner at a well-established Crab restaurant where we successfully enjoyed crabs using the knife and mallet without harming ourselves. The next morning we met Prof. Pellagrini, Chair of the Orthopaedic Department of the University of Maryland and also Dr. O'Toole (Trauma Surgeon). It was followed by an excellent and diversified scientific meeting and a walk through the Shock Trauma Unit. We spent the

evening at the Maryland Club, which is the second oldest private Club in the United States. On our last day during our stay in Baltimore we first visited Fort McHenry for a historical sightseeing tour in Baltimore and moved further to Annapolis where we met Capt. Dr. Keblish, Head of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, and visited the impressive Naval Academy. We really enjoyed our stay in Baltimore, where Ed McFarland took care of us in an outstanding manner.

The ASG fellows arrived in Boston on Sunday, February 27th. The next morning we had a warm welcome at different Harvard affiliated Hospitals:

Drs. Chiari and Jäger met our host, Dr. Millis but also his team including Drs. Kim and Matheny at the Boston Children's Hospital. Here, we had the great opportunity to spend some time at the OR observing a surgical dislocation of the hip. Meanwhile Drs. Fucentese and Michael went to the trauma morning conference at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and spent also some time at the OR with Dr. Harris and Dr. Weaver. In the evening we met our host, Dr. Thornhill at BWH for academic lectures followed by an outstanding faculty dinner at Island Creek Oyster Bar.

The academic program proceeded the next day, where Dr. Chiari stayed at the Children's Hospital whereas Drs. Fucentese and Michael observed different cases in the OR at MGH. It was a special pleasure for Dr. Jäger, who had done a total joint fellowship at the BWH in 2006, to spend some time in the OR together with Dr. Thornhill at this facility. At the afternoon the ASG fellows visited the research facilities at MGH and met also Dr. Rubash for academic lectures in the famous Ether Dome followed by a dinner with the trauma faculty including Drs. Vrahas, Harris, Weaver, Hacking and others. The next day, March 2nd, we were pleased to enjoy the Longwood Grand Rounds, where Dr. Atul Gawande gave his lecture about the significance of checklists in orthopaedic surgery. A limo took us outside Boston to Burlington, MA. There, it was a special pleasure for all of us to visit one of the former AOA-ASG fellows, Dr. Iorio at the Lahey Clinic (Boston University). We spend some time in the OR including a hip scope procedure by Dr. Wilk and also had academic lectures with Dr. Hayley who presented his brilliant orthopaedic poems: Ode to a First-Year Orthopaedic Resident, Ode to Total Knee Arthroplasty and Ode to Total Hips. After a nice dinner at an Irish pub with faculty members we left Burlington the next morning heading towards our next stop, which was the University of Massachusetts (UMass) in Worcester. Here, Dr. Ayers personally took us for a campus tour. It was impressive for all of us, how fast the medical school, research facilities but also the orthopaedic department have

developed during the last 10 years. This personal impression corresponds also to the high ranking by independent facilities (e.g. among the top 10 nation's medical schools by US News & World Report's Review). During the following academic lectures we took the great opportunity to exchange and discuss experiences in orthopaedics and related research. Dr. Ayers took us for a nice faculty dinner at the Worcester Club. The academic program continued next morning and also included basic research in related research fields. Here, Dr. Lian – the former president of the Bone and Mineral Research Society - gave an informative presentation of sRNAs as well as Dr. Song on bone regeneration by synthetic bone grafts. The high academic level was accomplished also by the dean's presentation (Dr. Flotte) of innovative gene therapy. It was a pleasure for all of us to share experiences in orthopaedic trauma with Dr. Wixsted and also to meet Dr. Li. In the morning of March 5th a stretch limo took us to Boston Logan Airport, from where we left Massachusetts and arrived in New York around noon.

Here, our hosts from the Hospital for Joint Diseases (HJD) invited us to join the Broadway musical *Billy Elliot*, a downtown sightseeing tour as well as an icehockey game in Madison Square Garden (New York Rangers vs. Philadelphia Flyers: 7-0).

On March 7th the ASG fellows had a great academic meeting with Dr. Zuckerman, Dr. Strauss and staff at the Hospital for Joint Diseases followed by OR observation time. In the afternoon the ASG fellows were taken for a campus tour with Drs. Quirino and Campbell, including also the Bellevue Hospital, one of the oldest and largest hospitals in NYC. After a case discussion session with the residents of the NYHJD department, Drs. Egol and Strauss took us out to an exclusive NYC Steak House for faculty dinner. We thank Dr. Zuckerman and his team for their outstanding hospitality and great academic exchange, open discussion but also for the very nice dinner with NYU faculty. On Tuesday, March 8th the ASG fellows left NYC and arrived at the final destination of their tour, which was Providence, RI. Here, Dr. Terek who had been an AOA-ASG fellow before hosted and took care of us personally. Our accommodation was the traditional Hope Club. In the evening we had academic presentations which continued at Brown University the next morning, where we met Dr. Ehrlich, the chair of the Orthopaedic Department. Afterwards Dr. Terek took us on a tour to see the impressive biomechanical and biological lab facilities at the Coro Center. Dr. Crisco reported about the complex biomechanics of the wrist (Dart Throwers Motion) and its influence on implant design, the high speed dual fluoroscopy for tracking 3-D skeletal motion and also how to transfer different projects into clinical applica-

tion. In the afternoon Dr. Terek organized an individual sightseeing trip including a nice walk on Newport's ocean side (Cliff Walk), an impressive museum tour at the Vanderbilt's mansion (The Breakers) and lunch with local food. Faculty dinner at night included also cultural lectures from Germany and Austria. The tour was officially finished on March 10th 2011.

The German speaking ASG fellows 2011 thank all our hosts and friends for their outstanding hospitality and for the great opportu-

nity to share experiences in the field of orthopaedic surgery and related research. In addition, we thank the *American Orthopaedic Association* (AOA) as well as the *British Orthopaedic Association* (BOA) for all the generous support and perfect organization, which made this fellowship to a magnificent experience in our academic life. For fellowship application information, please visit the websites of the corresponding orthopaedic associations at <http://www.asgfellows.de/>.

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