

ESCMID Observership Report

Name of Observer: - Lukasz Naumiuk

Host ECC: - University Hospital Marques de Valdecilla, Santander, Spain

Date of Observership Visit (from/to): - 11-17.10.2009

In September 2009, my application for the observership was approved so I was able to spend the second week of October in the ESCMID Collaborative Centre at the Department of Microbiology of the University Hospital of Marques de Valdecilla in Santander, Spain. Prof. Luis Martinez-Martinez, head of the Department first showed me the lab, introduced me to all the staff and I was given a free hand with regard to what to do. University Hospital of Marques de Valdecilla is nearly the same size as the Hospital of the University of Gdansk, Poland in which I work, however it receives significantly more specimens for culture. Also the scope of resistant and multiresistant bacteria, for example ESBL producing bacilli and Acinetobacter, is comparable. The main difference is its multidisciplinary structure which includes bacteriology, mycobacteriology, mycology, parasitology, virology, serology, molecular biology and a research unit. Our main focus is bacteriology and we offer only selected mycology, virology and serology tests.

Every day I visited a different unit or department of the clinical microbiology lab. Most of the time I spent within the bacteriology unit asking many questions, observing specimens/results and the work-flow and learning about new media or methods which we do not routinely use in our laboratory (viral cultures, vaginal wet mounts, real-time PCR etc). I was amazed by the equipment and expertise of the molecular biology unit which supports the needs of different departments.

The quality control program of the lab has been recently certified and, as in our lab, I am also involved in the organization of the similar QC program. Everything in this field was very interesting and applicable in our home setting.

Everyone was really eager to share their knowledge and answer even basic questions. I was happy to get to know many new colleagues and I hope to use what I learned from them and also see them again during future ESCMID events.

It was also a good opportunity to refresh and improve my Spanish and learn nearly all of the microbiology related Spanish words. I can only recommend this ECC to all interested ESCMID members.