

Report of Observership Visit

Name of Observer:

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Host ECC: 70 - University Medical Centre Groningen [The Netherlands]

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End of Observership Visit: 30-10-2009

Report:

I spent a three-day long Observership visit in a Collaborative Centre, in the Department of Medical Microbiology, University Medical Centre, in Groningen (UMCG), The Netherlands. The area is inhabited by mainly a traditional Dutch population. Adherent patient population to the UMCG counts approximately 2-3 million from a total of 16,5 million of the Dutch population. The UMCG is located in the centre of Groningen, where is a beautiful hospital building, more than 10 000 employees and 1 339 beds make the UMCG one of the largest hospitals in The Netherlands. It is sometimes called 'a city inside a city', because of the architecture, with covered streets that lead to the nursing units and outpatients clinics. The faculty of Medical Sciences of the University of Groningen is the second oldest medical faculty in The Netherlands. Like the university, it was established in 1614. Ever since the foundation of the Groningen University Hospital in 1797, hospital and faculty have been cooperating closely. The Faculty of Medical Sciences has two tasks: providing medical scientific education and carrying out medical scientific research. The Department of Medical Microbiology led by Prof. Dr. John Degener, is responsible for research and patient care in the fields of fundamental, applied and clinical aspects of microbial diseases. The department is thoroughly involved in teaching and training of students, medical specialists and infection control nurses. Research and development in the department focus on the significance of microbes in human health and disease. The department responsible for diagnostic and consultative patient care. In the discipline of Medical Microbiology two main streams, bacteriology and virology, can be involved in teaching and training of students, medical specialists and infection control nurses. Research and development in the department focus on the significance of microbes in human health and disease. The department responsible for diagnostic and consultative patient care. In the discipline of Medical Microbiology two main streams, bacteriology and virology, can be distinguished. The research activities are accommodated in the Section of Molecular Virology and the Section of Molecular Bacteriology. The diagnostic and consultative activities for the care of patients are performed in the Section of Clinical Virology and the Section of Clinical Bacteriology. In the Section of Infection Control specialized officers are delivering their hospital services. For realizing all tasks and duties, the department can possess over an extensive infrastructure of laboratories and offices in which approximately 150 staff members are employed. And why did I choose UMCG? My answer is very simple, first: during my stay we had to prepare together the technical part of the international course on anaerobic infections, which will be held on Groningen, from March 22, till March 26 in 2010. This course will be organized by the Institute of Clinical Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Szeged, Hungary and the Department of Medical Microbiology of the University Medical Centre, Groningen, The Netherlands with the support both of the ESGARAB and ESGCD. Secondly, I wanted to make hands-on experience in routine laboratory work in the clinical microbiology and infectious diseases in the same type of hospital and laboratory than ours, and this region is similar, than ours in Hungary. On the first day, the Professor and his colleagues: Linda Wildeboer-Veloo and Dr. Gjalte Welling gave me a very warm welcome, next they introduced

me to the staff of the laboratories. I also visited the university hospital bacteriology and virology departments and was given a tour of the labs. During this day, we discussed fully the lectures and the accurate details of the practice of the course, and in this particular case the personal, infrastructural, local and subjective opportunities of the laboratory. I made my suggestions for the practical part of the course, which were accepted by them. We distributed clearly the tasks of the course in our midst. The next days I joined them in everyday laboratory activities: coming from a clinical microbiology background, I mostly participated the anaerobic bacterial department staff. These days, I had the opportunity to look at the different laboratory works (sample handling, procedures, media, culture techniques, isolation and identification procedures), mainly the bacteriology, but the mycology too. I could see the consultation activities of the consultant microbiologists, and Professor Degener introduced me their on-line information system, which help them to consult with the clinicians. I had the possibility to exchange ideas, problems and share my experiences with the Dutch colleagues and also familiarize them with my line of work.