

2005 Dr. Leticia Trivellato Gresta (Brazil)

Leticia Trivellato Gresta, M.D.

Report of activities of Gordon Signy Foreign Fellowship 2007
WASPALM (World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine)
WPF (The World Pathology Foundations)

Institution:

Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. USA.
Division of Anatomic Pathology

Supervisor:

Antonio G. Nascimento, M.D.
Consultant, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Mayo Clinic
Professor of Pathology, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine

Duration: from July 2, 2007 to August 31, 2007 (two months).

Nature of training: Visiting Clinician program

This training took place during an elective period of my residency time including special training in soft tissue tumor pathology and surgical pathology.

Activities Report:

I felt extremely welcome when I arrived at the Mayo Clinic, not only by the staff and employees, but also by the residents and fellows. During the two month period, my working days were from Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm with the bone and soft tissue work group. The consultants in charge of the sign-outs were Dr. Antonio Nascimento, Dr. André Oliveira, Dr. Carrie Inwards and Dr. Andrew Folpe, all of them well known and highly respected pathologists in their field of expertise.

Every day, all the cases for consultation arriving from all around the world were available for preview before the sign-out. We saw approximately 30 to 40 cases a day. There was a microscope and a desk assigned for me and I had access to textbooks, internet and library resources for study purposes. While participating in the daily sign-outs together with the experts on the multi-headed training microscope, I was asked to give my opinion on the slides that I have previewed. Then, we used to discuss these slides and they would tell me what my mistakes were. I felt this was a very effective teaching technique. It was also priceless to watch their approach to the difficult cases and the diagnostic problems.

I found it very interesting to be in touch with the most advanced techniques of molecular biology and cytogenetics, a subject yet to be fully developed in my country. It was also valuable to learn the routine use of immunohistochemistry in the diagnostic of soft tissue tumors.

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In the afternoons, I used to attend to a conference with the staff of bone radiologists to discuss the image study of the patients and to correlate the radiological aspects with the histopathology.

I had the opportunity to examine the consultants' personal teaching files of soft tissue tumors and the bone tumor archives on my free time. Besides my usual activities, I was invited to attend to the conferences and every educational activity of the Mayo's academic schedule.

Apart from the bone and soft tissue training, I had the chance to participate in the brain tumors sign-out with the legendary Dr. Bernd Scheithauer, which took place late at night daily.

I am absolutely sure that the goal of this fellowship was achieved with primacy. This was a great experience, both personal and professional for me. After my return, I have strong interest in continue working inside my institution with what I have learned, contributing to improve the techniques of immunohistochemistry and molecular methods.

Personal acknowledgments:

First of all, I would like to register that I am extremely grateful to the World Pathology Foundation and to the World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine for granting me this unique opportunity. The Gordon Signy Fellowship was a vital contribution towards my visit at Mayo Clinic.

I would like to thank all those people at Mayo Clinic who made it possible for me to be there and also made my stay the most enjoyable, specially Dr. Antonio Nascimento for his kindness as a teacher and as a friend.

Finally, I give my sincere thanks to all the staff of WASPALM both in Japan and Switzerland for the constant and absolute attention towards me before and during the period of the fellowship.

Sincerely yours,

Letícia Trivellato Gresta, M.D.

Dated: October 23, 2007.