

**Report of Dr. Ratnadeep Ganguly  
Gordon Signy Fellowship 2009  
Boston Massachusetts from end of February 2010 for 10 Weeks**

I am extremely thankful to the World Pathology Foundation for granting me the prestigious Gordon Signy Fellowship that made my training possible.

I have trained in gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary pathology at Massachusetts General Hospital affiliated to Harvard Medical School at Boston, Massachusetts, USA. I have stayed there for two and half months.

When I reached Boston late in February and began training from 1<sup>st</sup> March, it was cold and windy, very different from India. It took me a few days to adapt. However in the department I was warmly accepted by Dr Gregory Lauwers and his colleagues including the other visiting fellows. I was immediately made a part of the team with participation in regular sign outs of cases everyday. In addition, the consult cases used to be given to us every afternoon prior to discussion and sign out on the next day. The cases covered pretty much all of gastro intestinal and hepatobiliary pathology including covering areas I have previously been not exposed to, like liver transplantation, rejection, uncommon infections etc. We also had access to the impressive database of Mass General Hospital and saw many of their teaching slide sets

Every evening, there was an unknown slide conference popularly known as "Outs" where interesting teaching cases were discussed in an interactive manner. There was discussion on one subspecialty each day and it was indeed a privilege to interact with the august faculty of Harvard. In some of these meetings, there were theoretical discussions on one topic or organ as well. These were very informative as well. There were the weekly GI tumor board meetings which gave us an opportunity to interact with the surgeons, radiation oncologists and radiologists and these feedbacks will prove invaluable in my future career. In addition, every week there was a resident lecture and those were very informative too.

One thing we looked forward to was the weekly consensus conferences in GI pathology where complicated and difficult cases were discussed among the faculty. Each would show his / her set of cases and all the differentials would be discussed. It was indeed a worthwhile experience for me to be a part of such a team of world renowned GI pathologists and strive for excellence at every step.

The frozen section laboratory offered an exposure to a diverse and interesting array of lesions and it was really intensive there with a huge load of cases everyday.

In addition, I also used to frequent the autopsy laboratory on a regular basis and take part in the dissections with the residents and fellows posted whenever I could spare sometime. There were also regular post autopsy meetings where the faculty member in charge will discuss the findings with us. It was very interesting to know how they ascertain the cause of death from gross and histological findings, sometimes very subtle ones.

Every week there would be a guest lecturer from reputed places like Johns Hopkins, Yale, NIH, Stanford etc and an intensive one hour session will be held with lectures and discussions. It was really very comprehensive covering almost every aspect of a

particular area of pathology or a particular disease and physicians covering the disease from a multidisciplinary point of view will be available for discussion.

Towards the end of my fellowship the GI pathology department arranged an exhaustive GI pathology course covering almost everything in GI and hepatobiliary system including inputs from the clinicians and radiologists. While this is a yearly affair to arrange a grand international gathering of this scale and nature, usually in one of the hotels in Boston, I was fortunate enough to attend it this year.

The atmosphere at Mass General Hospital and the department of pathology was very congenial and friendly. It has been a very active and lively group of residents and fellows (both in-house fellows and visiting fellows) working together with the faculty members. I took part in a couple of research projects. One of them dealt with poorly differentiated neuroendocrine cancers of the colon and aimed at comparing this entity with poorly differentiated carcinomas of colon from a genetic and immunohistochemical point of view. The other project would deal with pT3 and pT4 colon cancers as regards interobserver variations in reporting them. We plan to use both hematoxyline and eosin sections as well as elastic tissue stains for this latter project. Hopefully, in near future, we shall be able to find something worthwhile and publish the same. I also plan to collaborate with them in future research projects of mine as well as theirs.

Overall, it has been a wonderful and very productive fellowship in one of the very reputed and oldest hospitals in the United States and the world. I shall be forever thankful to World Pathology Foundation and would once again take this opportunity to express my gratitude to them.