

Gordon Signy Fellowship Report

São Paulo, Brazil,



Institution: Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, USA.

Supervisor: Dr Esther Oliva, MD.

Period: April to June / 2016.

Field of interest: Gynecopathology.

The training at the Massachusetts General Hospital started on april/2016, and it was focused on diagnostic gynecopathology, including daily sign-out routine with small and/or large specimens (650), review / consult cases (200), and frozen sections (80). Besides, study sets and case collections (200) could be retrieved and discussed with Dr Oliva. Once a week, tumor board conference was held in the gynecology department, where oncologic cases were discussed in a multidisplinary approach by gynecologists, radiologists, pathologists, oncologists, and radiotherapists. In addition to gynecopathology, I had attended to daily teaching conferences in all surgical pathology fields, weekly molecular lectures and monthly grand rounds with outstanding speakers.

I had the opportunity to see and study rare cases that I had never seen before in my routine, such as uterine tumors resembling ovarian sex cord tumors, ovarian small cell hypercalcemic type, female adnexal tumors of wolffian origin, mesonephric adenocarcinomas and adenosarcomas with sex cord elements. Moreover, I could check some research cases, comprising more than 10 myxoid leiomyoma/leiomyosarcoma, 15 endometrial stromal sarcoma with myxo-fibroblastic features, 75 endometrial carcinosarcomas and 150 cervical adenocarcinomas, the latter with Dr Robert Soslow and Dr Simona Stolnicu.

On June, I attended to the Harvard Medical Course of Gynecopathology and Obstetrics, where excellent speakers showed new and old concepts of these fields, allowing attendants to make questions about problems related to the daily routine, cases with unexpected morphology and/or immunohistochemichal expression and their personal approach to troublesome issues. It was a great opportunity to learn directly from pathologists I had only known by scientific papers and book chapters.

Dr Oliva is an expert in gynecopathology, who has published many relevant papers, contributing with the WHO classification of tumors of the female genital tract. At the same time, she is an outstanding supervisor, enthusiastic, and supportive, always concerned about her fellows and residents. I had an amazing experience with her, and I hope she can receive other brazilian fellows in the future, as there are only few experts in gynecopathology in Brazil.

I would like to thank the World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine for this opportunity, as it is hard for young pathologist from developing countries start an experience like this without support. I am sure that it has changed me into a more conscious and confident pathologist, able to better assist patients in my country.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Leonardo Lordello