IBRA International Bone Research Association

Name of Scholar: Giovanni Vilardo Cerqueira Guedes

Country of Citizenship: Brazil

Name and Country of Training Center: Centro Médico Teknon. Barcelona, Spain.

Name of Fellowship Director: Dr. Joaquim Casañas

Scholarship Type (Program B or C): C

Type C: Wrist arthroplasty in nonrheumatoid patients: a case series

Scholarship date: April to June 2022

What were your professional and personal expectations of the scholarship?

I wanted to complement my training as a hand surgeon, learning new techniques and improving the ones I already had.

What is the main focus of the IBRA training center (in general and of the department) you assisted in?

In this center all types of upper limb surgeries are performed. Dr. Casañas particularly specializes in pathology of the brachial plexus and peripheral nerve; also in wrist arthroscopy.

What did you do during your scholarship/how were you incorporated in the training center's daily routines/activities:

– How many surgeries have you assisted and which concrete technical modifications and methods have you seen?

I assisted 165 surgeries for the three months. I saw Dr Casañas operating nerves, always with neuronavegation and this was a novelty for me. I also saw a lot of arthroscopic surgeries and could improve myself on it. With Dr Lopez-Osornio I learned practically how to do a wrist arthroplasty.

– Specify your 3 to 5 favorite procedures and/or new skills you could acquire

At some point I hope to have the ability to perform:

arthroscopic hemitrapezectomy

wrist arthroplasty

arthroscopic assisted scaphoid and radius fractures

arthroscopic scapholunate instability (modified Corella)

– Which procedures can potentially be adopted in your future practice and how do they compare to your experiences at home

I hope to be able to perform arthroscopically assisted surgeries such as wrist synovectomy, triangular ligament repair, arthroscopic hemitrapezectomy, etc.

Talking about neuronavigation for nerve injuries, I don't think I could do in short term in my country because of elevated costs.

What was the most significant personal experience of the scholarship for you (e.g. cultural exchange etc.)?

I can also say that as a form of personal experience, this fellowship was perfect for me. I had never visited Europe and I had the opportunity to visit other cities and countries on weekends. For the first time in my life I saw snow. The Teknon surgeons (Dr Casañas, Dr Lopez-Osornio, Dr de la Torre, Dr Martinez and Dr Cruz) welcomed me very well and made me feel at home. I was able to attend an arthroscopy course in Valencia and the Hand Surgery World Congress in London. I also had contact with other Latin American hand surgeons who are in Spain complementing their training and I found this a very important experience. I will definitely come back to Brazil a more complete surgeon and person.

Tips to future scholars:

Housing: I was living in Sagrada Familia and everything was near, you can walk around the whole city and also the public transport is excellent. I recommend renting the apartment early because it is a city very popular with tourists.

Traveling**:** It's easy to travel to other cities and Countries. The tickets are not that expensive if you plan early.

Thank you very much for your help and thank you very much IBRA for giving me the opportunity to do it.

Best regards

Giovanni Vilardo Cerqueira Guedes