IBRA scholarship report

Information about Scholar and fellowship

- Name of Scholar: Zambelli de Almeida Pinto, Roberto
- Country of Citizenship: Brazil
- Name and Country of Training Center: DUKE Orthopedics, USA
- Name of Fellowship Director: Cesar de Cesar Netto and Mark Easley
- Scholarship Type: Program C
- Type C: Evaluation of weightbearing CT in diabetic foot deformities.
- Scholarship date: 02/23/2024 until 03/29/2024

Professional and personal experience

During my scholarship at DUKE Foot and Ankle Department, my professional and personal expectations were centered around engaging in research, particularly with weightbearing CT scans, and evaluating diabetic Charcot midfoot deformities and patients with progressive collapsing foot deformities.

The focus of the DUKE Foot and Ankle IBRA training center is to offer a comprehensive foot and ankle program. This department is known for its top academic and surgically skilled professors who perform a wide variety of foot and ankle surgeries. They also foster rich discussions with residents and fellows, significantly enhancing knowledge in foot and ankle subjects.

Throughout my scholarship, I was integrated into the daily routines and activities of the training center. I observed surgeries performed by Cesar Netto and attended clinics with Samuel Adams. Among the various challenges, the progressive collapsing foot deformities were the most complex to handle. I had the opportunity to witness numerous surgeries and observed specific technical modifications and methods. My favorite procedures included Koutsogiannis osteotomies, Cotton osteotomies, flexor digitorum longus (FLD) transfers, and lateral column lengthening.

These procedures, which I already incorporate into my practice, were significantly improved in terms of indications and techniques thanks to my experience at DUKE. The insights gained from these procedures can potentially enhance my future practice, providing a comparative advantage over my previous experiences.

The most significant personal experience of my scholarship was joining the research team. This opportunity allowed me to learn how to conduct high-quality research, which is invaluable for my professional development. Additionally, the cultural exchange during my time at DUKE was enriching, broadening my perspective both personally and professionally.

Closing words

To future scholars, Durham is a vibrant city closely connected to Duke University, offering excellent restaurants and diverse experiences. The Duke Foot and Ankle Department operates across three different buildings, with most of the research conducted at Duke Health Center Arringdon. For convenience in dining, gym access, and social activities, it is advisable to secure housing in the center of Durham. Additionally, renting a car is essential to facilitate commuting and ease of travel around the city.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the DUKE Foot and Ankle fellows, especially the international fellows, for their assistance during my time at DUKE. Special thanks go to all the collaborators, particularly Dana and Linnete. Dr. Cesar Netto and Dr. Adams provided exceptional attention and support throughout my stay. Words cannot fully express my gratitude to DUKE and IBRA for their guidance and support during this remarkable academic and professional journey.