**ENTOG-EBCOG Fellowship 2023**

**Final report**

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude for the great opportunity of an ENTOG-EBCOG Fellowship, as it broadens our knowledge horizon, it builds up strong international networks, supports with foreign language development and it breaks barriers focusing on potential unconscious biases. I am Andreea Elena Dumitru, a 4th year resident doctor at the “Filantropia Medical Hospital” in Bucharest, Romania and one of the lucky three awardees of EBCOG short-term fellowship scholarship” for 2023. I spent three months in Brussels, Belgium, at the University Clinics of Saint-Luc (CUSL) where I had a robust learning opportunity in the department of Reproductive Medicine, Infertility, Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) and Andrology, under the coordination of Prof. Christine Wyns.

In the following lines I will highlight the day-to-day experience as a “Bruxelloise” in a world full of chocolate, fries, and Art Nouveau architecture.

The department’s core activity includes both procedures and treatments for women infertility (fertilization treatment, inseminations, embryo transfers), but also consultations and surgical interventions for male infertility (PESA, TESE, microTESE). Moreover, the service offers the possibility to perform treatments for fertility conservation for oncological patients, as well as access to social freezing. CUSL, as an important center for ART in Belgium, allows sperm donor for couples dealing with male infertility or for couples that do not have a male partner, and provides also the facility of oocyte donor by anonymous cross donation or direct donation technique.

Research is a step forward in each system that wants progress and recognition, and also at this level, CUSL and the Department of Reproductive Medicine excel by having many ongoing studies and developing high level research in the field of women and male infertility.

I had the most complete example of mentorship, as from the beginning, my tutor, Prof. Wyns, along with the team, reunited to establish a clear schedule for me to benefit of all facilities and gain knowledge in this subspecialty. To resume a whole week activity: I’ve done consultations for female infertility; andrology consultations and as a premiere for me, interventions as PESA, TESE and micro TESE performed by Prof. Wyns for male infertility; I performed oocyte pick-ups under the supervision and kind advice of experienced doctors of the department; I’ve done echographies for follicular count, for female inseminations and IVF follow-ups; I had the opportunity to watch the process of embryo transfer and intrauterine insemination; I managed to practice and improve my skills doing exploratory vaginoscopy and HyFosy echographies; I participated and presented during the 2 types of the Department reunions: one each Tuesday (named Staff FIV) focusing on all the cases that will follow an ART treatment and a second one every 2-3 weeks (named Staff Andro) to discuss cases operated by Prof. Wyns for male infertility.

Because of the multicultural context in Brussels, I met in consultations different races and ethnicities with different pathologies, stimulating me to adapt my medical practice, results interpretation, and management in liaison with their culture, genetics and environmental context.

Also, respect for each woman’s or couple’s need is a rule that became a habit at CUSL at all levels.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude and sincere thanks to my tutor and from now on, my mentor, Prof. Wyns, and her team for the mentorship, patience and all the effort to make my internship at CUSL the start of a career in the field of Reproductive Medicine.

Kind regards,

Dr. Andreea Elena Dumitru