**ENTOG FELLOWSHIP GRANT REPORT – Maria Petra Agius (Malta)**

I am a 31-year-old newly graduated gynaecologist from Malta. During my training I was active in the Maltese association of obstetrics and gynaecology trainees and in ENTOG. In my last year of training, I decided to find a fellowship abroad to broaden my knowledge in reproductive medicine and surgery. Malta is an island in the Mediterranean Sea and although it is a pretty country to reside in, given its size - the opportunities are very limited. Hence, I applied for the ENTOG fellowship grant to help me financially achieve one of my career targets. I chose to do my fellowship at the UZ Leuven Fertility Centre in view of their expertise and their formidable reputation.

The experience I gathered in the past three months has positively influenced my clinical practice in reproductive medicine and surgery. I have experienced first-hand the importance of evidence-based medicine and patient centred care. I have been trained to perform oocyte retrievals and embryo transfers and can now carry these procedures out independently. Moreover, I have also been active in the operating room with patients being referred for a diagnostic laparoscopy in view of a clinical suspicion of superficial endometriosis. I am also participating in a research project on the use of dual triggers in the final stage of oocyte maturation prior to oocyte retrieval.

This opportunity would have been more difficult for me without the ENTOG fellowship grant since I am not receiving payment from the Belgian Hospital. During my fellowship I have applied for the GESEA Part 2 examination in which I was successful.

I am currently studying Dutch and I will be able to start doing out patient consultations from January. This is an important pre requisite for the ESHRE sub-specialisation Fertility Logbook which will enable me to obtain the ESHRE Sub-specialisation in Reproductive Medicine and Endocrinology.

I am also looking forward for my EBCOG graduation ceremony, having been successful in obtaining this exam last year. This will be held in Krakow and there I will meet with the ENTOG board and the other successful fellows.

I am very thankful for the opportunity afforded to me by this grant. The experience in Leuven will definitely have a positive impact on my practice going forward.

Best Regards,
Maria Petra Agius