Canadian Tour 2014

Academic Exchange Programme

European urologists experience Canadian urology in two-week tour

The EAU-CUA Exchange Programme started in 2011 and this year Europeans were invited to Canada. The tour participants this year included Frank Van Der Aa, Georgios Gakis, David Pfister and Andrzej Borkowski from Warsaw Medical University (PL) as senior member.

Ontario—June 15 to 18

Our first stop in London, Ontario was very interesting from both the scientific and social points of view. The London urologists under the guidance of Dr. Razvi are a highly professional, well-organized and social team.

Toronto—June 18 to 21

We proceeded to Toronto where city life seems much busier. After our arrival, Dr. Flechner briefed us on the university’s structure. There are five hospitals including the University Health Network (UHN), which we visited, and the Mount Sinai Hospital and Mount Sinai. They are all well-structured specialized centres with bio-banks.

Halifax—June 22 to 25

In Halifax, we first visited the Children’s Hospital of Dartmouth University, where Dr. Klotz presented cases of paediatric urology. We also visited the Halifax General Hospital and the Nova Scotia Cancer Centre. Our visit was highlighted in the outpatient testis clinic by the paediatric and urological surgeon, who gave us broad insights into the unique multidisciplinary structure of the Children’s Hospital.

Before our departure from Toronto, we were treated to a hearty farewell party at the hospital’s so-called “Irish Pub.”

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We attended the OR the following day, with an orchidectomy performed by one of the fellows and assisted by Dr. Peter Anderson. In the afternoon, we toured the Halifax region together with Dr. Ashley Cox, Dr. Gregory Bailly and Prof. Gajewski. This tour gave us a wonderful glimpse of Nova Scotia’s beautiful landscape. The day’s highlight was an unforgettable “ Lobster Dinner” at Dr. Bell’s home, chairman of the Department of Urology.

The next day started with exciting and challenging surgical procedures. Dr. Andrea Lantz, a staff member at Dalhousie’s University, performed a percutaneous nephrolithotomy with access to the upper calyx. Additionally, Dr. Ricardo Rendon elegantly performed an open radical cystectomy with ileal conduit diversion in a female patient with locally advanced bladder cancer.

The following day we observed a challenging cystectomy in a woman with locally advanced disease, performed by Dr. Scott Bagnoli. In the afternoon we had a sailing tour round Halifax with Prof. Gajewski, head of the Functional Urology Division at Dalhousie’s University. Before the day ended we participated in an interesting urodynamic round organised by Prof. Gajewski.

St. Johns New Foundland—June 26 to July 1

The CUA Annual Meeting was held in St. John’s, New Foundland, and the tour’s last stop. We were previously informed that New Foundland is a special place. And indeed it was since New Foundland is a place where you may encounter an icy storm, get sunburnt, run up on mountains, see icebergs and whales within just a few days.

The congress was very well organised and thus you could not miss anything, except staying away. It offered the full comprehensive reach of an ideal congress. Up-to-date national scientific work was presented in several abstract sessions. The atmosphere was lively, with active and insightful discussions. Although the discussions went to the bone, they were friendly with hints of humour. Internationally renowned speakers from Canada, USA and Europe gave keynote lectures in between the abstract sessions. Prof. Borkowski presented the European Association of Urology’s missions and the goal of EAU-CUA Exchange Programme. All the sessions were very well attended and presented recent trends and developments in urology.

During the Past Presidents Dinner, the representatives of the centres who hosted our tour received certificates of appreciation from the EAU. We also joined the Congress dinner where Prof. Jerzy Gajewski was honoured with an Award for lifetime Achievements from the Canadian Urological Association. It was a significant moment since Prof. Gajewski was one of initiators of the EAU-CUA Exchange Programme and was personally involved in the last part of our tour.

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35