

OPEN MEDICAL INSTITUTE



Medical Education Beyond Borders



SEMINAR REPORT
NEUROSURGERY (BRAIN)

MARCH 10 - 16, 2019

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SALZBURG WEILL CORNELL SEMINAR NEUROSURGERY (BRAIN)

March 10 - 16, 2019

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| • 35 fellows from 23 different countries and regions |
| • 8 faculty members from the United States and Austria |
| • 16 lectures, 1 hands-on-workshop and 1 case presentation session given by faculty |
| • 32 interesting case presentations by fellows |
| • 6 excellent case presentations selected by faculty |

Faculty Photo (L-R)

Philip E. Stieg, PhD, MD; Jared Knopman, MD (Course Director) and Antonio Bernardo, MD
Not pictured: Claudius Thomé, MD (Co-Course Director), Christian Freyschlag, MD, Priv.-Doz.;
Johannes Kerschbaumer, MD; Martin Ortler, MD, PhD, MSc. and Peter A. Winkler, MD, PhD



Group Photo of Faculty and Fellows



2019 Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminar in Neurosurgery (Brain)
Sunday 10 March – Saturday 16 March 2019



	Sunday 10 March	Monday 11 March	Tuesday 12 March	Wednesday 13 March	Thursday 14 March	Friday 15 March	Saturday 16 March	
07:00 – 08:00		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	DEPARTURES	
08:00 – 09:00		Introductions Pre-Seminar Test	Acoustic Neuroma Philip Stieg, PhD, MD	Hands-On-Workshop Research Laboratory for Microsurgical Neuroanatomy Antonio Bernardo, MD	Surgery for Cavernous Malformations Claudius Thomé, MD	Neuroanatomy of the Temporomesial Region Peter A. Winkler, MD, PhD		
09:00 – 10:00		CEA versus CAS Jared Knopman, MD	Microvascular Decompression Jared Knopman, MD		Surgery in and around the Third Ventricle Peter A. Winkler, MD, PhD	Surgery for Infiltrative Tumors/Glioma Christian Freyschlag, MD, Priv.-Doz.		
10:00 – 10:30		COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK		COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK		
10:30 – 11:30		Surgical Management of Aneurysms Philip Stieg, PhD, MD	Surgical Management of AVM Philip Stieg, PhD, MD		Sellar Surgery Claudius Thomé, MD	Epilepsy Surgery Martin Ortler, MD, PhD, MSc		
11:30 – 12:30		Anterior Skull Base Surgery Antonio Bernardo, MD	Lateral Skull Base Surgery Antonio Bernardo, MD	Head Trauma Jared Knopman, MD	Surgery for Meningiomas Johannes Kerschbaumer, MD			
12:30 – 14:00		LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH		
14:00 – 15:00		Posterior Skull Base Surgery Antonio Bernardo, MD	Workshop Fellows' Case Presentations	Hands-On-Workshop Research Laboratory for Microsurgical Neuroanatomy Antonio Bernardo, MD Peter A. Winkler, MD, PhD	Workshop Fellows' Case Presentations	Post-Seminar Test Evaluation & Discussion		
15:00 – 16:00		Workshop How to Present a Case						
16:00 – 17:00		Workshop Case Presentations by Faculty to Fellows						
17:00 – 18:00		<u>17:00 – 17:15</u> OMI/AAF PRESENTATION						
18:00 – 19:00	Faculty Only Meeting to Review the Week					Farewell RECEPTION		
19:00 – 20:00	WELCOME RECEPTION & DINNER	DINNER	DINNER Faculty Dinner in Private Home	DINNER	DINNER	Graduation DINNER Certificates Awarded		
20:00 – 21:00					<u>20:30 – 21:30</u> CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT			

**WEILL CORNELL
SEMINAR
in
SALZBURG**

"Neurosurgery (Brain)"

March 10 – 16, 2019

FACULTY



Wolfgang Aulitzky, MD is the Medical Director of the American Austrian Foundation. He is Associate Dean for International Medicine and Distance Learning, Adjunct Prof. of Clinical Urology and Adjunct Prof. of Clinical Reproductive Medicine at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University/New York Presbyterian Hospital. In 2016, he was appointed Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics in the Associated Faculty of the Perelman School of Medicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He is also Associate Prof. of Urology at the Medical University of Innsbruck and Visiting Professor at the Medical University of Vienna. Amongst others he is a member of the American, German and Austrian Societies of Urology and was awarded the Zuckerkindpreis of the Austrian Society of Urology in 1989. In 1995 he received the Silver Medal, in 2007 the Golden Medal for Merits to the Republic of Austria and in 2014 the cross of honor of the Land Salzburg. As Director of the Medical Program of the American Austrian Foundation he has initiated the Open Medical Institute, a scientific and educational collaboration of Weill Cornell and the New York Presbyterian Hospital, the Children Hospital of Philadelphia, Duke University, Columbia University, the Cleveland Clinic and leading hospitals in Austria. Dr. Aulitzky earned his medical degree at the University of Innsbruck in 1977, was a research associate at the University of Uppsala, Sweden and the Rockefeller University, New York. He received his training as an urologist at the University of Innsbruck and the General Hospital of Salzburg. He is the author of more than 140 publications on Urology, Andrology and Health Care issues and is co-author of books on basic and clinical urology/andrology.

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Jared Knopman, MD (Course Director) is a neurosurgeon who specializes in the treatment of vascular diseases of the brain and spine. He is one of the few neurosurgeons in New York City with dual expertise in both open neurosurgical as well as minimally invasive interventional techniques for the treatment of neurologic disease. This affords him a unique perspective in determining the optimal treatment for each individual patient's needs, while employing the most cutting-edge technologies. Dr. Knopman received a B.S. and graduated Cum Laude and with Honors from Northwestern University. Dr. Knopman received an M.D. from Mount Sinai School of Medicine, where he was elected to the AOA honor society. Dr. Knopman did his surgical internship and neurosurgical residency at Weill Cornell Medical College/Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Hospital, where he also served as Chief Resident. Dr. Knopman did specialized fellowship training in endovascular neurosurgery/interventional neuroradiology at Weill Cornell Medical College. He has surgical and interventional expertise in treating a diverse array of diseases of the brain and spine. Dr. Knopman has extensive research experience in the area of minimally invasive neurosurgery and has published both articles and book chapters pertaining to the treatment of degenerative spinal disease, brain tumors, and aneurysms utilizing the most innovative, least invasive approaches. He was one of the original contributors and authors of a novel trial of super-selective treatment of malignant brain tumors using targeted chemotherapy, as featured in The New York Times. He has lectured both nationally and internationally and travels the United States proctoring other physicians in stent-assisted embolization of complex intracranial aneurysms. Dr. Knopman was awarded the prestigious CNS/Micrus Endovascular Neurosurgery grant for his research in vascular disease.

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Claudius Thomé, MD (Co-Course Director) completed his medical education at the Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität München, Germany and at Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford/Calif., USA followed by his residency in the Department of Neurosurgery, University of Heidelberg, Campus Mannheim (Chairman: Prof. Dr. P. Schmiedek) (1995-2001). He completed several fellowships: 2nd Institute of Physiology, University of Heidelberg; Dept. of Orthopedics, Klinikum Karlsbad-Langensteinbach; Department of Neurosurgery, Barrow Neurological Institute, Phoenix, USA; and, Department of Neurosurgery, Mayfield Clinic, University of Cincinnati, USA. His thesis was entitled "Evidence-based spine surgery: Evaluation of new surgical techniques using randomized studies" (2005). Dr. Thomé's surgical specialties are: cerebrovascular surgery, skull base surgery and complex spine surgery, and his main research fields are: cerebrovascular diseases, neuromonitoring in brain injury (TBI, SAH) as well as evidence-based and minimally invasive spine surgery and regenerative medicine in spinal disease. After serving as Professor and Vice-Chairman at the Dept. of Neurosurgery, University of Heidelberg, Campus Mannheim from 2007 to 2009, he was appointed Full Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery, Medical University Innsbruck, Austria in 2010. Dr. Thomé has served several years as chairman of the Spine Section of the German Society of Neurosurgery and is past-president of the Austrian Spine Society. He currently serves as board member of the Austrian Society of Neurosurgery, the German Spine Society and AO Spine Europe. Dr. Thomé's commitments in the societies focus on education as training delegate of Austria in the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies and as member of the education committee of the German Spine Society and the Spine Society of Europe.

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Antonio Bernardo, MD (Director of the Surgical Training Lab) is Professor of Neurological Surgery and Director of the Surgical Innovations Laboratory for Skull Base Microsurgery in the Department of Neurological Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr Bernardo is a highly distinguished, award winning neurosurgeon, who pioneered the use of 3D technology in neurosurgery. He trained under some of the world's leading neurosurgeons and is internationally recognized for his outstanding contribution to the field of neurosurgery. He received his M.D. from University of Naples "Federico II" where he graduated Summa cum Laude. He completed his Neurosurgery residency at the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Naples and at the Western General Hospital/University of Edinburgh in Edinburgh, Scotland. Dr. Bernardo served as a scholar at the University of California, Irvine from 1997 to 1999. He spent one year as a volunteer neurosurgeon in Peru, where he established skull base surgery programs in hospitals throughout the country, representing the Foundation for International Education in Neurosurgery (F.I.E.N.S.). In 2000, Dr. Bernardo became an Adjunct Professor of Neurosurgery and Director of the Microneurosurgery Skull Base Laboratory at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Dr. Bernardo then completed a fellowship in Skull Base Surgery at the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona under Dr. Robert Spetzler. Dr. Bernardo subsequently joined the Department of Neurological Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College as an Associate Professor and Director of the Skull Base and Microneurosurgery Laboratory. His field of interest include skull base surgery, cerebrovascular surgery, and virtual reality in medicine and surgery. Dr. Bernardo has established himself as an expert in skull base and neurovascular surgery and as a pioneer and expert in the understanding of microsurgical anatomy. At the Barrow Neurological Institute, he developed a three-dimensional surgical simulator to teach surgeons the visual-spatial skills required to perform skull base surgical approaches. The project, called interactive virtual dissection (IVD), integrates cadaveric dissections, 3-D visualization, virtual reality, and computerized simulation for the training of surgical procedures. His clinical expertise is demonstrated by his academic appointments, extensive teaching history, and collection of published works. Dr. Bernardo has been invited to direct over 150 surgical courses worldwide, is frequently invited as a guest and honored speaker to international neurosurgical meetings. He has received several medals from national and international neurosurgical federations for his contribution to the development of neurosurgery in their respective countries. He has trained over 4,000 neurosurgeons through his skull base surgery courses and 55 dedicated fellows since he has joined the Department of Neurological Surgery at Weill Cornell. Dr. Bernardo is currently a neurosurgical consultant in several countries where he continues to operate on complex skull base surgical cases on a routine basis.

He is member of the Register of Neurosurgeons of the United Kingdom, the American Congress of Neurosurgeons, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, an honorary member of the Italian Association of Neurological Surgeons, the Peruvian Association of Neurological Surgeons, the Peruvian Academy of Surgery, the Colombian Association of Neurological Surgeons, the Caribbean Association of Neurological Surgeons, and the Venezuelan Association of Neurological Surgeons.

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Christian Freyschlag, MD, Priv.-Doz. was born in 1982, graduated Medical University of Innsbruck in 2006 and started his neurosurgical residency in Mannheim. He followed Prof. Thomé to Innsbruck in 2010, completed his training and serves currently as vice-chairman of the department, associate professor and head of neurooncology. His main interests in the field of neurooncology are cortical mapping, determination of function and intraoperative imaging.

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Johannes Kerschbaumer, MD is a neurosurgeon who specializes in surgical neuro-oncology and subsequent medical adjuvant treatment. Dr. Kerschbaumer grew up in the northern Italy before moving to Austria for his graduation in medicine at the Medical University of Innsbruck. His residency at the Department of Neurosurgery included a neurooncological fellowships at the University Hospital of Zurich, Switzerland with Prof. Weller and an observership at the Barrow Neurological Institute with Prof. Spetzler. Dr. Kerschbaumer's research interests focus mainly on individualized treatment of malignant tumors of the brain and the spine, with publications on adapted treatment in elderly patients after resection of malignant glioma, adjuvant treatment of patients after resection of brain metastases and evaluation of Quality of life in neuro-oncological patients. He also serves as Reviewer for the World Neurosurgery journal. Currently, Dr. Kerschbaumer works as consultant at the Neurosurgical Department at the Medical University of Innsbruck.

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Martin Ortler, MD, PhD, MSc is a neurosurgeon who specializes in vascular neurosurgery, skull base surgery and epilepsy surgery. Born in the northernmost, German-speaking part of Italy (Südtirol), he received his neurosurgical training at the Department of Neurosurgery of Innsbruck Medical University in Innsbruck, Austria and completed an epilepsy surgery fellowship at the Departments of Epileptology and Neurosurgery in Bonn, Germany. He presently holds the position of a Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at Rudolfstiftung Hospital in Vienna, Austria. He also is on the faculty of Innsbruck Medical University as an Associated Professor of Neurosurgery. Dr. Ortler is interested in all techniques and tricks that minimize the morbidity of neurosurgical interventions. As a chairman in a large urban neurosurgical department he strongly believes in the ideas of the “end result” as proposed by Ernest Codman. He dedicates an important part of his activity to teaching, since he strongly believes that someone has the duty to convey traditional principles of good surgical practice to the next generation of neurosurgeons, and that the future of neurosurgery depends on our ability to attract the brightest students to what can become a lifelong passion. He believes in the value of a well-organized personal professional library and shares with his wife Alice the love for traveling, classical and alternative music and for outdoor activities.

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Philip E. Stieg, PhD, MD is the Chairman and Neurosurgeon-in-Chief of New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Professor of Neurological Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine, is the founder of the Weill Cornell Medicine Brain and Spine Center, one of New York City's leading interdisciplinary neuroscience facilities. Dr. Stieg, a world-renowned neurosurgeon with expertise in cerebrovascular disorders and skull base surgery, is a widely published author and internationally known lecturer, and has been consistently named one of the nation's Top Doctors by Castle Connolly. He is also one of the editors of the definitive textbook on AVMs, Intracranial Arteriovenous Malformations. Dr. Stieg currently serves as the President of the Brain Tumor Foundation and president of the New York board of the American Heart and Stroke Association. He is a past Chairman of the Joint Section of Cerebrovascular Surgery of AANS/CNS and past President of the Society of University Neurosurgeons. Dr. Stieg provides his expertise in head trauma as a sideline consultant for the National Football League and as a consulting neurosurgeon to the New York Giants, and he is also an advisor to the Department of Defense on traumatic brain injury in the military. Under Dr. Stieg's leadership, the Weill Cornell Medicine Brain and Spine Center created the Surgical Innovations Lab, the first global multimedia neurosurgical teaching facility enabling real-time global teaching collaboration in multi-site medical centers, as well as New York's first multidisciplinary Concussion and Brain Injury Clinic staffed by neuro-specialists. Most recently, Dr. Stieg spearheaded the launch of the new Weill Cornell Medicine Center for Comprehensive Spine Care, where patients receive multidisciplinary services under one roof. This new paradigm is part of Dr. Stieg's vision for reshaping the delivery of care for patients with complex conditions of the central nervous system. Dr. Stieg's research interests include cerebral protection as well as restorative function. He is also interested in neural transplantation and neuronal regeneration after stroke. His initial studies focused on understanding the mechanisms of injury in the central nervous system after trauma. His laboratory was one of the first to develop and characterize primary cultures of astroglial cells. Dr. Stieg's expertise in cerebrovascular disorders combines with his research interests in stem cell biology and cerebral transplantation for restoring neurological function. Dr. Stieg has implemented a multifaceted approach to the management of neurosurgical disorders such as carotid artery disease, vascular malformations, aneurysms, epilepsy, brain tumors, trauma, pediatric disorders, spinal cord problems, and functional diseases, including Parkinson's disease. Dr. Stieg received his B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin, his Ph.D. from Union University, and his M.D. from the Medical College of Wisconsin. He trained at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School after completing a fellowship in cell transplantation for restorative neurological function at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, then joined the faculty of the Harvard Medical School. He was recruited from the Harvard Brigham and Women's/Children's Hospital in 2000 to build the new Department of Neurological Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

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Peter A. Winkler, MD, PhD (Director of the Surgical Training Lab) studied medicine at the Universities of Innsbruck, Austria and Bologna, Italy and completed his studies at both Universities with highest distinctions. During and after his training in Neurosurgery at the University of Munich, Germany, he successfully completed different electives and fellowships in many countries, for example in Scandinavia, South Africa, Brasil, Japan, and the USA in different neurosurgical fields. Especially his fellowship in epilepsy surgery at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio, with Professor Lueders and Professor Comair gave him the competence to establish a new program for Epilepsy Surgery at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich together with Professor Noachtar. He established a Research Laboratory for Microsurgical Neuroanatomy in Munich and became speaker of the Section Microsurgery and Neuroanatomy of the German Society of Neurosurgery. His thesis for the Venia Legendi and Professorship at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich deals with lesions in and around the III. ventricle and the associated morphometrical, neuroanatomical and neuropsychological investigations. After a short period of Chairman of the Clinic for Neurosurgery and Epilepsy Surgery at the Behandlungszentrum Vogtareuth, Germany, in 2011 he was elected as the new Chairman of the University Clinic of Neurosurgery at the Paracelsus Medical University in Salzburg, Austria. There he established a Research Laboratory for Microsurgical Neuroanatomy as well as an Epilepsy Surgery Program together with Professor Trinka. He won many prizes and awards and he is a recognized international lecturer. Currently he is acting as the President of the Austrian Society of Neurosurgery, as President of the Salzburg Medical Society and as speaker of the Section Microsurgery and Neuroanatomy of the German Society of Neurosurgery. Since few years, he acts as a Senator of the European Academy of Science and Arts.

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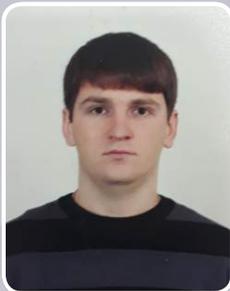
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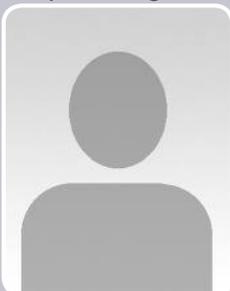
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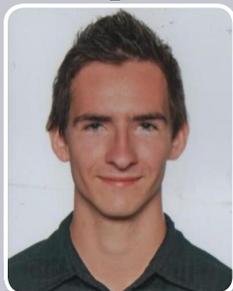
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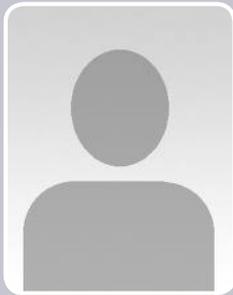
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SEMINAR DIARY FROM FELLOW

Aleksandrs Krigers, MD
University Hospital of Innsbruck
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March 10-16, 2019



March 10, Sunday evening. Today after a relatively short trip with a train I arrived to Salzburg. It is my second time, when I'm attending the AAF seminars and I have visited the town many times before, so there were no problems during the journey. In the evening, after the short greetings, followed by the dinner, I had an opportunity to meet colleagues from neighbor countries. It was very motivating to build new contacts and to discuss professional differences. With the faculty from my institution and colleagues we drove to the downtown to have a small drink and to continue our discussions there.

March 11, Monday. The day started with a test, and some questions were quite tricky here. So, I'm waiting to catch the right answers during the seminars. The first lecture considering dealing with carotid artery stenosis was a bit unexpected for me, because in our institution this kind of treatment is provided by another department. However, it was fine to get the "state of the art" information about it. The second topic took much more time and was done with show elements providing the crucial anatomic data. I knew the theoretical morphology and have performed some cadaver courses before, but the union of approach-based anatomy with three-dimensional view showed the data from another side, thus filling lacking gaps in my understanding. Exactly the attractive presentation's style was the key point of the speaker and the reason for success. The productive professional discussion with colleagues, especially considering the first topic, followed in the evening with a cup(s) of local bier.

March 12, Tuesday. This morning the brilliant lecture about the actually casual topic reflecting ACN management was presented – you could be able to realize the huge experience staying behind the presenter from his very first words. Truly, the same quality lectures were provided by his followers, respecting evidence-based principles. Still, the first one brought more for my real clinical practice. After the lunch there was a turn for the first part of case reports of the fellows. I had a luck to be the first one. Generally, there was a trend to choose "brainstem lesion" reports, nevertheless, the case (and presentation) from Tallinn was the most remarkable.

March 13, Wednesday. Just after the breakfast we were taken with cabs to the Neurolab of the local neurosurgical department. The approaches, that were theoretically presented on the first two days, were showed on a cadaver using high-end Kinevo 3D microscope. There was a piece of disappointment in the group, that we were not able to manipulate by ourselves. However, the presenter tried his best

and carefully explained every step. In the evening we went with colleagues to try the local food to keep the networking.

March 14, Thursday. The interactive lecture of my chief allowed to understand quite complicated vascular cases in a simple way. So, I got a lot of practical information for my future work. The second lecture was about complex anatomy of the 3rd ventricle, providing extensive historical data considering the development of this knowledge. Further lectures considering Sella region lesions and TBI basics were also more clinical oriented. After the lunch the second part of the fellows` lectures followed.

Aleksandrs Krigers, MD (Austria)

SEMINAR DIARY FROM FELLOW

Sonia Iliona Mejia Perez, MD
Instituto Nacional de Neurologia y Neurocirugia
Mexico City, Mexico
March 10-16, 2019



March 10, Sunday evening. I arrived to Salzburg from Mexico City, after a very long trip. And although our plain was deleted it was a very enjoyable flight. I traveled with my colleagues from Mexico City, so we took a cab together and arrived at Schloss Arenberg at night on Saturday. We took a walk through the city that night and have a nice dinner at a local restaurant. The next morning, we took an express journey to Vienna and went back to the welcome dinner, where we get to meet the rest of the fellows and the faculty.

March 11, Monday. The lectures started at 8 o'clock, discussing topics such as endarterectomy and surgical anatomy. Prior to the lectures we took a pre-test. On the coffee break we went to the lobby for the photo group. After that we enjoyed some 3D talks about neuroanatomy. It was a great experience. After lunch we continued with the anatomy classes, and we had a little workshop about the proper way to present a case. After that I went for a walk to get to know the city.

March 12, Tuesday. In the morning, the lectures' topics were about AVM, which helped me a lot to remember some basic concepts about vascular surgery. After that we continue with the neuroanatomy lectures in charge of Dr. Bernardo. I really enjoyed those lectures because of the surgical tips he shared with us. After lunch half of the fellows presented their cases. I was particularly surprised with a surgical case about a giant lesion. It was really interesting to discuss the treatment options from people from all over Europe.

March 13, Wednesday. The faculty took us to Dr. Winkler's microsurgical lab. There, we had the opportunity to see Dr. Bernardo perform surgical approaches. This workshop was very useful, because he shared some very interesting tips and tricks with us. The whole class was in 3D, which was very good because we get to have a better appreciation of the surgery. It was a shame that we had such a short time, but I am hoping to go visiting prof. Bernardo later in the future.

March 14, Thursday. In the morning there were great lectures about lesions in the third ventricle, sellar surgery, and cavernomas. I really enjoyed all the lectures. In the afternoon I presented my case and it was a very enriching experience. We enjoyed a beautiful chamber concert, which it was a great experience.

March 15, Friday. The last day we enjoyed lectures about mesial anatomy and gliomas, which are my favorite topics. We took the post-test and I get to apply all the knowledge from the last days. In the overall It was a great experience, both academic and cultural. Salzburg is a beautiful city and all the speakers and lectures were of high academic level. I would like to thank AMSA for the opportunity. It was a life changing experience and I am hoping I can attend one of the leadership seminars. I cannot wait to replicate this concept back home.

Sonia Iliona Mejia Perez, MD (Mexico)

SEMINAR DIARY FROM FELLOW

Sara Patricia Perez Reyes, MD
Hospital Regional de Alta Especialidad del Bajío
Leon, Mexico
March 10-16, 2019



March 10, Sunday evening. From 10 to 16 March I was in Salzburg, spending a great and intensive academic week in a very beautiful city. I had a long trip from León Guanajuato México to Mexico City, from Mexico City to Frankfurt, and finally from Frankfurt to Salzburg. Even when I was very excited for the experience. I took a taxi from the airport, the taxi driver was friendly and during the transfer he related some important data about this beautiful city, also he gave me some recommendations. The weather was cold, but we received a very warm welcome, when we were checking in at Schloss Arenberg, a very beautiful castle with a beautiful forest surrounding it. We rested a bit, then went for a walk to explore the beautiful Salzburg. In the evening we were in the welcome reception, met the other participants of the conference, an amazing experience because in this seminar is people of all over the world. The atmosphere was friendly and inspiring. We had a tasty dinner, after which we went to sleep to be rested and energized for tomorrow's lectures.

March 11, Monday. After breakfast we had the pre-seminar test, I was a little bit nervous but mostly excited because I knew that I would have to remember many concepts and learning new things from the experts. Then we had our first lecture from Jared Knopman, which was about the difference between carotid endarterectomy and carotid artery stenting, it was very interesting for me because in my practice it is rare to see this pathology. After the coffee break, Dr. Stieg presented an excellent lecture about aneurysms' treatment. The next lecture from Antonio Bernardo, which was made in 3D format, was impressive and educational. After lunch we had a workshop and Jared Knopman explained us how the present a case.

March 12, Tuesday. After breakfast professor Philip Stieg, talked about acoustic neuroma, it was very educative and with important practical points. After that, Professor Knopman, explained us about trigeminal neuralgia and treatment modalities, we argued about different surgical approaches and ideal patient's position, this was very interesting for me because the professor's suggestion makes a lot of sense and I think is an easier and quicker option compared to the position that I used to apply (park bench). Next lecture was dedicated to the surgical management of aneurysm, with important nuances. During the next lectures, we were listening with attention to a lecture from Antonio Bernardo about anterior and posterior skull base, a great presentation with beautiful 3D images. After lunch, case presentations began (very interesting cases and topics). In the evening I was walking in the Getreidegasse. After a great dinner I studied the amazing anatomy Manuel written by Professor

Antonio Bernardo, after that I slept, I wanted to be fit for the next day: hands-on workshop, research laboratory of microsurgical anatomy.

March 13, Wednesday. I woke up earlier and very happy, because this was the day, that I was waiting for, we went to the Cristian-Doppler Clinic, where we directed to the cadaver lab, where the great Professor Peter Winkler received us with a big smile and made us feel at home, he showed us his laboratory, and after a brief explanation, Antonio Bernardo made a presentation about cadaver and the operation accesses to the skull base during 5-6 hours. We were tired, but after the arrival to Schloss Arenberg, we decided to go to Mirabell Palace and gardens where we took a lot of beautiful pictures of the amazing city of Salzburg.

March 14, Thursday. We heard the lecture from Claudius Thomé, who presented the main aspects of treatment for cavernous malformations. The following lecture with Jared Knopman was very interesting and presented a new technique in the treatment of subdural hematoma. During the next hour the greatest professor of the course Peter Winkler presented surgery in and around the third ventricle. After lunch we proceeded with the case presentations. Next: an amazing dinner and after that we heard a beautiful chamber music concert with 2 amazing musicians, Elena from Russia, and Esteban from Switzerland.

March 15, Friday. After breakfast we heard one of the most interesting lecture of the course from the great Peter Winkler about neuroanatomy of the temporo medial region, one of my favorite topics. After the coffee break I tried to memorize everything I learned during the lectures in order to have good results for the post-seminar test. It didn't take me a long time to finish the test. To be honest I was expecting that this time it will be different from the pre-seminar test. Thus, I had a very productive academic week in Salzburg and I gained new knowledge, felt the real intercultural communication and made a lot of new friend. We left with the hope to return very soon. Tomorrow is our flight back home. Soon I'll be back to work and have a daily routine. Thanks a lot to the Faculty and Administration of Schloss Arenberg for this amazing week.

Sara Patricia Perez Reyes, MD (Mexico)