



OPEN MEDICAL INSTITUTE

SEMINAR REPORT

INTERNAL MEDICINE SEMINAR IN SALZBURG

September 6 – September 12, 2020

A Global Educational Initiative by the
American Austrian Foundation

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SALZBURG COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SEMINAR IN INTERNAL MEDICINE

September 6 – September 12, 2020

16 fellows from 10 different countries
10 faculty members from the United States of America and Austria
19 lectures given by faculty
16 interesting case presentations by fellows
4 excellent case presentations by fellows

Group Photo of Faculty and Fellows



	Sunday 06.09.2020	Monday 07.09.2020	Tuesday 08.09.2020	Wednesday 09.09.2020	Thursday 10.09.2020	Friday 11.09.2020	Saturday 12.09.2020
7:30 - 9:00 1:30 - 3:00 am		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	DEPARTURES
09:00 - 10:00 3:00 - 4:00 am		Introductions Pre-Seminar Test	Antimicrobial Drug Resistance Wolfgang Graninger, MD, PhD	Workshop** Fellows' Case Presentations	Evaluation of Lung Nodules & Masses Michael Studnicka, MD, MSc	COPD Daniela Gompelmann, MD, PD	
10:00 - 11:00 4:00 - 5:00 am		Emerging Infectious Diseases Christoph Steininger, MD	Tropical Diseases Wolfgang Graninger, MD, PhD	Community Acquired Pneumonia Guenter Weiss, MD	Asthma Marco Idzko, MD	Bronchoscopy Daniela Gompelmann, MD, PD	
11:00 - 12:00 5:00 - 6:00 am		Gastrointestinal Infections Christoph Steininger, MD	Workshop** Fellows' Case Presentations	COVID-19: Past-Present-Future Guenter Weiss, MD	Workshop** Fellows' Case Presentations	Post-Seminar Test Evaluation & Discussion	
12:00 - 13:00 6:00 - 7:00 am		LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	
13:00 - 14:00 7:00 - 8:00 am		M.TB and BCG Vaccinations Benjamin A. Miko, MD, MSc	Life-Threatening Rashes Angelena Labella, MD	Sexually Transmitted Infections Benjamin A. Miko, MD, MSc	Outbreak Investigations Benjamin A. Miko, MD, MSc		
14:00 - 15:00 8:00 - 9:00 am		Adrenal Insufficiency Jacqueline Lonier, MD	Workshop** Fellows' Case Presentations Kristin M. Burkart, MD, MSc Jacqueline Lonier, MD	Workshop** Fellows' Case Presentations Kristin M. Burkart, MD, MSc Angelena Labella, MD	Workshop** Fellows' Case Presentations Kristin M. Burkart, MD, MSc Benjamin A. Miko, MD, MSc		
15:00 - 15:30 9:00 - 9:30 am		COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK		
15:30 - 16:30 9:30 - 10:30 am		Pre-operative Assessment Angelena Labella, MD	Adrenal Incidentalomas Jacqueline Lonier, MD	Update on Alcohol Withdrawal Treatment Angelena Labella, MD	Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia Jacqueline Lonier, MD		
16:30 - 18:00 10:30 - 12:00 am							
18:00 - 19:00 12:00 - 1:00 pm	FACULTY MEETING*					FAREWELL RECEPTION	
19:00 - 20:00 1:00 - 2:00 pm	WELCOME RECEPTION & DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	GRADUATION CEREMONY*** Certificates Awarded	
20:00 - 21:00 2:00-3:00 pm							

* Faculty Meeting: US and AUT/EU Faculty

** Workshops Fellows' Case Presentations: AUT/EU Faculty (am), US & AUT/EU Faculty (pm)

*** Graduation Ceremnoy: US & AUT/EU Faculty



Wolfgang Aulitzky, MD

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Adjunct Professor of Clinical Reproductive Medicine
Weill Medical College of Cornell University

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Associate Professor of Urology
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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 Zuckermandlpreis 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.



**Kristin M. Burkart, MD, MSc
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Kristin M Burkart, MD, MSc is a Pulmonary and Critical Care Physician and an Associate Professor of Medicine at Columbia University Medical Center. She is the Director of the Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship Training Program and the Medical Director of the Chest Clinic. Dr. Burkart graduated AOA from Albany Medical College, completed her residency and chief residency at the University of Colorado and completed her fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine. She has a Master of Science in Epidemiology from Boston University School of Public Health.

Dr. Burkart cares for a diverse population of patients including medically underserved patients from the surrounding Washington Heights neighborhood as well as tertiary and quaternary referrals for critical care management. She attends in the medical intensive care unit, the pulmonary consultative service, the critical care consultative service, and the chronic ventilator management service and is an active member on the Ethics Committee. Dr. Burkart's clinical interests include hypoxemic respiratory failure including the use of Extra-Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO), sepsis and medical ethics.

Dr. Burkart is a leader in fellowship training and medical education with several current and past national leadership positions. She is a Past President and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Program Directors (APCCMPD), an organization whose mission is to provide leadership and support for fellowship training programs across the country. Dr. Burkart is the Chair of the American Thoracic Society (ATS) Training Committee, Chair of the APCCMPD Education Committee and a Deputy Editor for ATS Scholar, a new online medical education journal. Dr. Burkart is dedicated to providing an educational and research environment for her fellows that fosters their development into compassionate and exceptional clinical physicians, clinician-educators, and physician-investigators.



**Guenter Weiss, MD
(Co-Course Director)**

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Guenter Weiss, MD studied medicine at the University of Innsbruck, Austria and performed a thesis at the Institute for Medical Chemistry and Biochemistry. He then worked as a post – doctoral fellow the Department of Medical Chemistry and Biochemistry before starting as a resident at the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Innsbruck where he did his medical training in internal medicine. He became specialist for internal medicine in 1998, for intensive care medicine in 2001 and for infectious diseases in 2006. His clinically training was interrupted by another post-doctoral fellowship at the EMBL in Heidelberg where he was working on translational gene regulation (until 1996). Thereafter he built up his own research group supported by grants from the Austrian Research Funds, the European Union and the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Weiss successfully completed two habilitations (Medical Biochemistry in 1995, Internal Medicine in 1999) and still tries to combine his daily clinical work and duties with scientific laboratory and clinically based projects. Günter Weiss has published more than 340 papers in peer reviewed journals. His research focuses on multiple aspects of cellular and systemic iron homeostasis and their dysregulation in specific pathological conditions including anemia of chronic disease and iron overload. Further, he studies the regulatory network between iron homeostasis, immune function and infection with a specific emphasis to the role of macrophages in host-pathogen interaction and the impact of natural resistance genes and metabolic alterations in the host-pathogen micro-environment on disease outcome. Since 2012 Günter Weiss is full professor of medicine at the Medical University of Innsbruck (§98) and director of the Division of Internal Medicine II (infectious diseases, immunology, rheumatology, pneumology), In 2015 he was elected into the Austrian Academy of Science.



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Daniela Gompelmann, MD, PD graduated from the University of Saarland, Germany, in 2008. From 2008 to 2020 she worked in the Department of Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine in the Thoraxklinik, University of Heidelberg Germany. It was there that she trained to become a consultant in internal medicine and pneumology with a sub-speciality in intensive care medicine. Since February 2020, she is professor for interventional pulmonology and senior consultant in the Department of Pulmonology in the Medical University of Vienna, Austria. Her research interests are in the field of interventional pneumology, in particular the endoscopic therapeutic procedures for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and emphysema. She evaluated the predictors of success and of complications of endoscopic valve therapy, as well as bronchoscopic thermal ablation. In addition to authoring numerous studies and specialist articles, she is also associate editor of the text book "Interventional Pulmonology, ERS Monograph" and co-editor of the specialist journal "Der Pneumologe".



Wolfgang Graninger, MD, PhD

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Wolfgang Graninger, MD, PhD is an internist who specializes in infectious diseases. Wolfgang Graninger grew up in Salzburg and completed his undergraduate studies there. During his compulsory military service he specialized in strategic and intelligence services. At the University of Vienna he started to study mathematics, philosophy, biology and medicine. He graduated in medicine in 1974 and in human biology in 1978. In the medical field he started as an immunohematologist and then changed to internal medicine. During his residence he had fellowships in Great Britain, Sweden and United States. Infectious diseases he studied in Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil and Syria. In 1990 he became professor of medicine at the Medical University in Vienna. His research interests include diagnosis and treatment of hospital associated infections. In tropical medicine there is a close cooperation with the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambarene, Gabon. Wolfgang Graninger was the head of the Department of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Graninger is frequently teaching in Asian, Arab and African countries.



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Marco Idzko, MD is Professor of Pneumology at the University Hospital Vienna. He completed his residency at the University Hospital Freiburg, Germany, and became an Assistant Professor at the University of Freiburg in 2006, becoming Associate Professor at the university in 2011. He obtained German board certification for internal medicine, pneumology and sleep medicine and is also a master of pulmonary vascular disease of the European Respiratory Society Bologna (ERS). His research areas include immunology, clinical immunology and pulmonology. His research efforts have earned the Fellowship of the Emmy-Noether-Program and the Böhringer Ingelheim Foundation, as well as several honours such as Theodor-Frerichs-Award of the DGIM, the Allergopharma Award of the EAACI, the Curt Dehner Award of the DGP. He is a member of the Austrian Society of Pulmonology (ÖGP), Southwest German Society for Pulmonology and Respiratory Medicine, American Thoracic Society, German Society for Pulmonology and Respiratory Medicine (DGP), German Society of Internal Medicine (DGIM), European Respiratory Society (ERS), and the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI). Professor Idzko is a board member of the Long Range Planning Committee of the ERS Assembly on Airway Diseases, and was the former Head of this committee. Currently he is the Head of Assembly 5.3 of the ERS and Head of Assembly 1 of the ÖGP. He is an associate Editor for PLOS ONE, BMC Pulmonary Medicine and Frontiers in Immunology. Professor Idzko has reviewed articles for several journals including the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, European Respiratory Journal, The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Journal of Immunology, and Nature, and is the author of more than 100 publications.



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Angelena Labella, MD is an Internist who specializes in both Hospitalist Medicine and Infectious Diseases. Dr. Labella grew up in Long Island in the state of New York and completed her undergraduate studies at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She graduated from Stony Brook University School of Medicine and completed her Internal Medicine residency at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. Her fellowship training in Infectious Diseases was at New York University in New York City. Dr. Labella's areas of interest include operational efficiency and process flows within the hospital system. She is a co-author in a recently published paper by the New England Journal of Medicine that observed the effect of hydroxychloroquine on patients with COVID-19. Dr. Labella is currently on the faculty at Columbia University Medical Center as Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine.



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Jacqueline Lonier, MD is an adult endocrinologist at the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Dr. Lonier grew up in New Jersey and completed her undergraduate studies at Yale University in New Haven, CT. She earned her MD from the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons and completed internal medicine residency and endocrinology fellowship training at the NYU School of Medicine. Her clinical practice at the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center focuses on the management of type 1, type 2, and less common forms of diabetes. Her research interests include diabetes in pregnancy and type 1 diabetes prevention. She has been named a Department of Medicine Ewig Clinical Scholar in recognition of her contributions to medical student, resident, and fellow education. She currently lives in New York City with her husband Andrew and her son Shiloh.



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Benjamin A. Miko, MD, MSc is Assistant Professor of Medicine at Columbia University Medical Center where he specializes in infectious diseases. His research focuses on the molecular epidemiology of antibiotic-resistant organisms, particularly *Staphylococcus aureus*, in both healthcare and community settings. His clinical interests include the management of infectious complications of solid organ transplantation, bone marrow transplantation, and hematological malignancies. He also specializes in the treatment of staphylococcal infections, HIV infection, and tropical infectious diseases. Miko serves as the Associate Director of the Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program at Columbia University Medical Center. Miko holds an MD from Boston University, an MSc in Biostatistics from Columbia University, and a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTM&H) from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (University of London, UK). He completed Internal Medicine Residency and Infectious Diseases Fellowship at Columbia University Medical Center, where he also served as a post-doctoral research fellow with the Center for Interdisciplinary Research to Reduce Antimicrobial Resistance. Miko joined the faculty of the Division of Infectious Diseases in 2013. He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine (Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases) and the Royal College of Physicians of London (Tropical Medicine & Hygiene). Miko is a member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



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Christoph Steininger, MD is an infectious diseases specialist who focuses on viral and gastrointestinal infections. Dr. Steininger grew up in Upper Austria and completed his undergraduate studies in Steyr/ Upper Austria. He graduated from the Medical School of Leopold-Franzens University of Innsbruck, Austria. Dr. Steininger received his training as board certified specialist in Clinical Virology at the Department of Virology, Medical University of Vienna and additional training in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at the Gorgas Memorial Institute, University of Alabama, Birmingham, USA and Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru. Thereafter, he started his training in Internal Medicine (Infectious Diseases & Gastroenterology) at the University Clinic Eppendorf, Department of Medicine I, Hamburg, Germany and completed this training at the Medical University of Vienna, Department of Medicine I, Vienna, Austria. Dr. Steininger earned special expertise in Gastroenterology & Hepatology at the Wilhelminenspital, Vienna, Austria and worked as a visiting professor at the University of California, San Diego, USA. Dr. Steininger's research interests include molecular virology and immunology of Cytomegalovirus, Helicobacter pylori infections and gastrointestinal infections in immunocompromised and oncology patients. Recent publications include reviews on Cytomegalovirus immunology and the human microbiome as well as peer-reviewed publications on Cytomegalovirus immunology and innate immunity to Hepatitis C virus infection. He is a peer reviewer for multiple major medical journals including Lancet, Lancet Infectious Diseases and Clinical Infectious Diseases and is member of the editorial board of Scientific Reports, a Nature Journal. Dr. Steininger's research efforts have earned him grants from multiple renowned organizations including the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, European Society of Virology, and Austrian Science Funds. Dr. Steininger is currently on the faculty of the Medical University of Vienna as Associate Professor of Medicine.



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Michael Studnicka, MD, MSc is a pneumologist and epidemiologist who specializes in COPD and thoracic oncology. Dr. Studnicka grew up in Vienna, Austria and completed his undergraduate studies at Kollegium Kalksburg, Vienna. He graduated in Medicine from Vienna Medical School and graduated in Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He completed his pneumology and intensive care residencies in Vienna, at the Department of Pneumology at Baumgartner Hoehe Hospital, the Department of Radiology at Kaiserin Elisabeth Hospital, the Department of Pediatrics at University Hospital and the Department of Cardiology at Lainz Hospital. He received a Fulbright Fellowship for Harvard Medical School, Channing Laboratory to investigate longitudinal data on air-pollution and lung function in children with Drs. Frank Speizer and Scott Weiss. Dr. Studnicka's current research interest includes COPD epidemiology, epidemiology of lung function, epidemiology of Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and clinical trials in oncology. He served as President of the Austrian Society of Pneumology and Founding Dean for Academic Affairs of Paracelsus Medical University Salzburg. His research efforts have resulted into more than 100 PUB MED listed publications, including original papers in the Lancet, the New England Journal of Medicine, the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, CHEST, European Resp Journal and many other journals. He currently serves as Chairman of the Department of Pneumology on the faculty of Paracelsus Medical University and University Hospital Salzburg. He lives in Salzburg with his wife Andrea and children Lea and Christina.

Fellow Booklet



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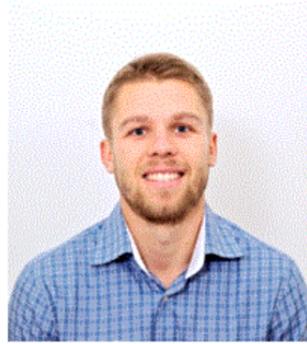
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DIARY



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Sunday, September 6, 2020: “Arrival Day – Schloss Arenberg”

I arrived at the train station in the centre of Salzburg at 1:48 pm. With the help of instructions I easily found a right bus to get to the “Volksgarten” bus station where was my destination address. I was pulling my big baggage as I came across the large doors that looked like a door of a castle. And indeed, it was a castle, “Schloss Arenberg”. Although I have seen the pictures of the castle online, it was not comparable with seeing it live. To be honest, for a couple of moments I felt really “royal”. My room was on the fourth floor looking to the large garden of the castle with wonderful view on tall trees, green grass and only silence all around.

At 7 pm the welcome reception started. Professor Aulitzky gave a speech on the upcoming seminar. He shared with us all the problems they had to deal with in organizing a seminar during a pandemic. It was not easy, but with enough persistence and optimism they made it happen. Then we had dinner with excellent fish and mushroom soup. I was sitting with a family physician from Lithuania who told me about barriers he has to deal with in his everyday practice. For example, they cannot do the proper and complete diagnosis for the patient because of limited financial resources. Also, patients have become more demanding and opinionated thinking they have a right to order therapy for themselves. Family physicians, “door-keepers”, are on the first line with this and it is not an easy task.

Monday, September 7, 2020: “Wake-up day”

As every Monday should begin, so begun this one – with an alarm. Breakfast with coffee and everyone was slowly walking to the conference room. It was the first morning so the chatting

between the participants was still quite modest and shy; limited to the colleagues with whom you had breakfast. First thing we had was a pre-seminar test. It was interesting, with a wide range of questions. The first lecture was given by Professor Steiniger, who presented the challenging topic of emerging infectious diseases. He was a great speaker, so it was so easy to follow his presentations. He gave me (as an internal medicine resident not that much interested in infectious diseases except for COVID-19) a good overview of infectious diseases, which were kind of forgotten in my everyday practice, but that are actually very important and can easily burst again, like measles, zika virus, chikungunya. During the rest of the day, there were lectures on tuberculosis and preoperative risk assessment, and my favourite about adrenal insufficiency. The most important thing I learned from these presentations is (except for new knowledge) a way of thinking about diagnostics for a patient. That is why learning from books simply cannot replace a good teacher. All the teachers are great speakers, really well prepared on the topic, and after every lesson we had interesting discussions and each question from the public was thoroughly answered. Doctors from Columbia University were giving lectures over a big screen in the Grand Hall, but it was such a high-quality technical equipment that it seemed like there were with us in the room. At the dinner I had a talk with an internal medicine resident from Czech Republic and he told me about the positive experience in his country regarding the salaries which significantly increased in the last years, so they do not have a big "exodus" of physicians (like Croatia does). Maybe we should try to follow these politics regarding medical staff.

Tuesday, September 8, 2020: "Do we actually know how to prescribe an antibiotic?"

Tuesday started with a lecture about antimicrobial drug resistance. Professor Graninger gave us one of the most interesting lectures about bacteria I have ever heard. He showed us that when prescribing antibiotics, we should not be blinded by recommendations and guidelines, but always to stay critical, reassess the patient status together with antimicrobial results. The next presentation was a total surprise – it was about malaria, and there were some stunning facts. Although in 90% of the cases it affects Africa, we should be aware that climate is changing and mosquitos carrying a parasite have a good perspective to spread its geographical area. Nowadays we are all very worried about COVID-19, and regularly counting infected patients. However, the lecture about malaria helped me to widen my point of view because every year there are 2 billions(!!!) of people infected with malaria. Why doesn't that hit the headlines? Afterwards we listened to case presentations of our colleagues which were all really interesting and very educational for our everyday practice. In the afternoon doctor Labella had a lecture about life-threatening rashes. It was a great topic because in internal medicine we get so rarely education on skin changes, often neglecting this biggest human organ that can actually tell us so much about the patient's health. Then there was my favourite part: an endocrinology session about adrenal incidentalomas. Professor Lonier gave us really clear and simple guidelines what to do with this nowadays increasing diagnosis due to more frequent radiological work ups.

After the lessons I went to the city which is so enchanting. I just got "lost" between baroque buildings, castles and surrounding mountains. I did not have any specific goal, I was just wandering around, enjoying the sun. I spent a dinner with colleagues from Slovenia, Austria and with Professor Graninger. We had a long chat about the current situation in politics, different health care systems and perspectives for the future. Also, Professor Graninger was explaining the process of the development of antibiotics and how it is actually hard to get new antibiotics and that we should be very careful with the ones we have, because there is no "back-up" when we spend them.

Wednesday, September 9, 2020: “COVID-19 Day”

I had breakfast with a colleague from Germany who shared with me his residency experience. They have a very well-structured programme for residents, but in the everyday practice they must “struggle” if they want to learn some new procedures or techniques, for example ultrasound or some puncture. You have to find a senior physician who will show you that and also to find time to do it in the everyday rush and “thousands” of patients you have to examine. I always thought that it was much easier for residents in Germany but now I realize that we all deal with the same issues, no matter in which country. Although we have been listening about COVID every day for the last six months, this COVID talk was different. The lecture was held by Professor Weiss, who is a pulmonologist and specialist for infectious diseases. So, you can imagine how great this synthesis is in the COVID era. Really valuable information about COVID pathogenesis, treatments and the future. We had so much questions so that when the lecture was over we “attacked” him during lunch and continued with our dilemmas which he all clearly answered. In the afternoon we learned about sexually transmitted diseases which was a good reminder for internal medicine residents, as we do not deal with it that often. But I think is important to have that in mind because STDs can come with various systemic symptoms. Then we listened to Professor Labella and updates on alcohol withdrawal treatment, which was a great lecture because very often we have these kinds of patients and there are no clear guidelines how to deal with it, so it was very helpful for me. During dinner I was listening to the experience from a colleague who was working in Switzerland. They really have a little bit different work habits and a different way of living than Croatians. They work 12 hours a day on a normal ward, and when it is needed, they stay longer to finish the job – it is not paid, what is actually a problem in every other country. I just always thought that Croatia is so unfair because extra hours are not paid, but then when I hear that it is happening also in Switzerland, I will take it as a normal thing from now on.

Thursday, September 10, 2020: “No SABA for Asthma”

Morning started with the lecture of Professor Studnicka about lung nodules and masses. It is an emerging diagnosis without clear clinical implications. He presented very simple guidelines on how to treat these patients. “No SABA for asthma” was the next lecture. It was actually one of the most surprising but also enchanting conclusion about asthma and the crucial thing was that Professor Idzko brought it from the newest pneumonology meeting which was held only two days ago, so we have been informed on most recent guidelines. I spent lunch with a colleague from Czech Republic and I was convincing her to use ultrasound more often because it is a stethoscope of the 21st century. I hope I gave her enough pro arguments to use it more often. Afternoon started with Professor Miko who gave an excellent lecture on outbreak investigations which is enormously useful in this era of COVID. Every day we are fighting with new COVID numbers, including incidence, prevalence, rates and so on, and after this lecture I am sure that we can much easily handle these epidemiological terms. He also told a story about a missionary hospital in Central Africa, which did not have adequate hygiene standards and became a source of a virus spreading. So, when western countries are bringing help to Africa and especially offering medical help, there should be some minimum standards with strict control, which were missing in this case. Afterwards, Professor Lonier held a lecture about congenital adrenal hyperplasia. With that lecture we said farewell to our Columbia University teachers. They have taught us a lot; they were patient with each of our questions and I really enjoyed all the lessons although they were livestreamed. Thank you for your efforts, you were great! Moreover, I must not forget all the case presentations from my colleagues which were excellent. They presented hard cases, they showed their own way of handling them and that

will be for sure helpful in my future work. Also, an important thing that we learned from one of our colleagues is that we all should always think about vitamin D when doing work-up for patients. Late afternoon was reserved for going to the city, I have been to the centre, I enjoyed a coffee by the riverside and visited some of the local libraries. In the evening our Slovenian friends organized a small gathering in the lobby, and it was so nice to see us sitting all together talking and laughing, so that also Professor Aulitzky joined us telling his experience about past seminars. We spent a great evening.

Friday, September 11, 2020: “Farewell”

Our last day at the seminar. It is hard to believe that the whole week is already behind us. I am really sad. In the morning we had lectures about COPD and bronchoscopy that were really interesting. Afterwards we took a post-seminar test and it showed me how much I have learned during this week. And learning is not only knowledge, I will cite Professor Studnicka here: **“This seminar is not only about providing knowledge (you have it in your books), it is about sharing experience.”** To conclude this small diary, I must say how flattered I am that I was chosen for this seminar, and I am very thankful for everything that organizers have provided for us.

A big thank you to Professor Aulitzky who made this seminar happen despite all the problems during the COVID-pandemic, a big thank you to Ms. Faschang who was associate director of the seminar, also to all of our American teachers for bringing their lessons to us, and of course a big thank you to all the other people whose names I do not know, but who supported this beautiful event. I am travelling back to Croatia with so many new impressions, and I cannot wait to share this knowledge with my colleagues at home, and especially to tell them “Do not use SABA for asthma!” :D

PS. During the seminar, all the participants strictly followed the recommended guidelines on how to behave during the COVID-19 pandemic.

