



# OPEN MEDICAL INSTITUTE

## SEMINAR REPORT

### DERMATOLOGY

June 20-26, 2021

A Global Educational Initiative by the  
American Austrian Foundation

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**Weill Cornell**  
**Medicine**

# SALZBURG WEILL CORNELL SEMINAR IN DERMATOLOGY

June 20-26, 2021

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| 19 fellows from 11 different countries |
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| 10 faculty members from the United States of America and Austria |
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|                              |
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| 19 lectures given by faculty |
|------------------------------|

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|--|
| 18 interesting case presentations by fellows |
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|---|
| 5 excellent case presentations by fellows |
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Group Photo of Faculty and Fellows



| CEST<br>EDT                       | Sunday<br>20.06.2021                      | Monday<br>21.06.2021  | Tuesday<br>22.06.2021  | Wednesday<br>23.06.2021  | Thursday<br>24.06.2021  | Friday<br>25.06.2021                                      | Saturday<br>26.06.2021 |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|---|------------------------|
| 7:30 - 9:00<br>1:30 - 3:00 am     |   | <b>BREAKFAST</b>  | <b>BREAKFAST</b>   | <b>BREAKFAST</b>   | <b>BREAKFAST</b>  | <b>BREAKFAST</b>  | <b>DEPARTURES</b>      |
| 09:00 - 10:00<br>3:00 - 4:00 am   |   | <b>Introductions<br/>Pre-Seminar Test</b>   | <b>Syphilis and Ulcerative Sexually-<br/>Transmitted Infections</b><br>Georg Stary, MD | <b>Allergology for the Dermatological<br/>Practice</b><br>Stefan Woehrl, MD, MSc   | <b>(Basic) Research as Driver<br/>for Novel Therapies</b><br>Nikolaus Romani, PhD | <b>Connective Tissue Diseases</b><br>Georg Stingl, MD     |                        |
| 10:00 - 11:00<br>4:00 - 5:00 am   |   | <b>Overview of the Skin Immune<br/>System</b><br>Georg Stingl, MD                               | <b>Genodermatoses</b><br>Christine M. Prodingler, MD                                   | <b>Drug Eruptions</b><br>Stefan Woehrl, MD, MSc                                    | <b>Skin Manifestations of HIV</b><br>Simona Saluzzo, MD, PhD                      | <b>Autoimmune Bullous Disorders</b><br>Wolfgang Bauer, MD |                        |
| 11:00 - 12:00<br>5:00 - 6:00 am   |   | <b>Atopy, Allergy and Irritation of the<br/>Skin</b><br>Georg Stingl, MD                        | <b>Workshop**</b><br>Fellows' Case Presentations                                       | <b>Workshop**</b><br>Fellows' Case Presentations                                   | <b>Workshop**</b><br>Fellows' Case Presentations                                  | <b>Post-Seminar Test<br/>Evaluation &amp; Discussion</b>  |                        |
| 12:00 - 13:00<br>6:00 - 7:00 am   |   | <b>LUNCH</b>  | <b>LUNCH</b>   | <b>LUNCH</b>   | <b>LUNCH</b>  | <b>LUNCH</b>  |                        |
| 13:00 - 14:00<br>7:00 - 8:00 am   |   | <b>Brief Review of the Physiology of<br/>the Skin</b><br>Richard D. Granstein, MD               | <b>Skin Manifestations of COVID-19<br/>Disease</b><br>Joanna L. Harp, MD               | <b>Surgical Treatment of Non-<br/>Melanoma Skin Cancer</b><br>Kira Minkis, MD, PhD | <b>New Drugs for Skin Cancer</b><br>Kira Minkis, MD, PhD                          |   |                        |
| 14:00 - 15:00<br>8:00 - 9:00 am   |   | <b>Skin Signs of Internal Disorders</b><br>Joanna L. Harp, MD                                   | <b>Workshop**</b><br>Fellows' Case Presentations                                       | <b>Surgical Therapy for Malignant<br/>Melanoma</b><br>Kira Minkis, MD, PhD         | <b>Adverse Skin Effects of Cancer<br/>Therapies</b><br>Joanna L. Harp, MD         |   |                        |
| 15:00 - 15:30<br>9:00 - 9:30 am   |   | <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>   | <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>  | <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>  | <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>   | <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>                                       |                        |
| 15:30 - 16:30<br>9:30 - 10:30 am  |   | <b>Psoriasis/Seborrheic<br/>Dermatitis/Pityriasis Rubra Pilaris</b><br>Richard D. Granstein, MD | <b>Neuroimmunology of the Skin</b><br>Richard D. Granstein, MD                         |  |   |   |                        |
| 16:30 - 18:00<br>10:30 - 12:00 pm |   | <b>16:30 - 16:45<br/>OMI Presentation</b>   |  |  |   |   |                        |
| 18:00 - 19:00<br>12:00 - 1:00 pm  | <b>FACULTY MEETING*</b>                   |   |  |  |   | <b>FAREWELL RECEPTION</b>                                 |                        |
| 19:00 - 20:00<br>1:00 - 2:00 pm   | <b>WELCOME RECEPTION &amp;<br/>DINNER</b> | <b>DINNER</b>   | <b>DINNER</b>  | <b>DINNER</b>  | <b>DINNER</b>   | <b>GRADUATION CEREMONY***</b><br>Certificates Awarded     |                        |
| 20:00 - 21:00<br>2:00-3:00 pm     |   |   |  |  | <b>20:30 - 21:30<br/>CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT</b>                                    |   |                        |

\* Faculty Meeting: US and AUT/EU Faculty

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

\*\*\* Graduation Ceremony: US & AUT/EU Faculty



# OPEN MEDICAL INSTITUTE

## FACULTY BOOKLET

### DERMATOLOGY SEMINAR IN SALZBURG

June 20 – June 26, 2021

A Global Educational Initiative by the  
American Austrian Foundation



## **Wolfgang Aulitzky, MD**

Director, Open Medical Institute  
**American Austrian Foundation**

Associate Dean and Gerhard Andlinger Professor  
for International Medicine & Distance Learning  
Adjunct Professor of Clinical Urology  
Adjunct Professor of Clinical Reproductive Medicine  
**Weill Medical College of Cornell University**

Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics  
**Perelman School of Medicine at the Children's Hospital  
of Philadelphia**

Associate Professor of Urology  
**Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria**

**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.



## **Richard D. Granstein, MD**

George W. Hambrick, Jr. Professor of Dermatology  
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**Richard D. Granstein, MD (Course Director)** obtained his undergraduate education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his medical education at the UCLA School of Medicine. After completing his internship in 1979, he trained in dermatology at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Then, as a Research Fellow, Dr. Granstein studied immunology and tumor biology at the National Cancer Institute-Frederick Cancer Research Facility and, subsequently, at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Granstein joined the faculty of the Department of Dermatology at Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1984. In 1995, he left Harvard to become chairman of the Department of Dermatology at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University and Dermatologist-in-Chief at the New York Weill Cornell Medical Center of the New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Granstein's research interests center on the regulation of immunity within the skin and the relationship of the skin immune system to the development of skin cancers. He and his co-workers demonstrated that epidermal Langerhans cells can present tumor antigens for in vivo antitumor immunity. He also has a special interest in the regulation of the immune system by stress and the nervous system and, along with his colleagues, was the first to show that Langerhans cell function could be regulated by products of nerves. His clinical interests include autoimmune disorders of the skin, skin cancer and psoriasis.



## **Georg Stary, MD**

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**Georg Stary, MD (Co-Course Director)** is a dermatologist who specializes in infectious and immunological disorders. Dr. Stary grew up in Vienna, Austria, and graduated from Medical University of Vienna. He completed his residency at the Vienna General Hospital / Medical University of Vienna and performed several research projects under Prof. Stingl's supervision. After his residency, Dr. Stary worked for 4 years as postdoctoral research fellow in Prof. von Andrian's lab at Harvard Medical School, Boston. Dr. Stary's research interests include the cellular immune system of the skin and mucosa, host-pathogen interactions and clinical translation of his findings. Recent publications include a major paper on a new mucosal vaccine design in *Science* and the evaluation of tissue-resident immune cells in *Blood*, the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, *Science Immunology* and *Science Translation Medicine*. He is a peer reviewer for multiple major journals in dermatology and immunology. Dr. Stary's research efforts have earned him grants from the Austrian Science Fund, Vienna Science and Technology Fund, Max-Kade Foundation and Austrian Central Bank. Dr. Stary is currently on the faculty of Medical University of Vienna as Associate Professor of Dermatology and examines dermatological patients as senior physician. He is Co-Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases and Adjunct Principal Investigator at CeMM – Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. He lives in Vienna with his wife Victoria and children Simon, David, Anna and Benjamin.



## **Wolfgang Bauer, MD**

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**Wolfgang Bauer, MD** is a dermatologist from Vienna with a keen interest in the skin immune system. Dr. Bauer grew up in Germany and Austria, graduated from Vienna Medical University and completed his dermatology residency at the Division of Immunology, Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the Department of Dermatology of the Medical University of Vienna. His main research interests include cellular and molecular immunology of the skin with a focus on work relying on ex vivo isolated cell populations. In addition, he has been working on cutaneous lymphomas and myeloproliferative skin diseases. Recent publications include a microscopic evaluation of innate lymphoid cells in human skin as well as works on rare subtypes of cutaneous lymphomas. Dr. Bauer currently serves as a senior physician at the Department of Dermatology. He lives in Vienna with his wife Verena and their children Pauline and Levi.



## **Joanna L. Harp, MD**

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**Joanna L. Harp, MD** is a dermatologist who specializes in complex medical dermatology and inpatient dermatology. Dr. Harp grew up in Fort Worth, Texas and completed her undergraduate degree at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. She returned to Texas for medical school and graduated from Baylor College of Medicine and completed her dermatology residency at University of California San Francisco, where she served as chief resident. Dr. Harp's practice includes general dermatology and dermatologic surgery, with a specific clinical interest in complex medical dermatology and skin disorders related to internal disease. Her research interests include autoimmune dermatology, cutaneous vasculitis, and cutaneous drug reactions. In addition to her outpatient practice, she serves as Director of the dermatology consultation service at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Recent publications include a review of pyoderma gangrenosum in the American Journal of Clinical Dermatology as well as a review of severe cutaneous drug eruptions in Seminars in Cutaneous Medicine and Surgery. Dr. Harp is currently on the faculty of Weill Cornell Medical College and New York Presbyterian Hospital as Assistant Professor of Dermatology. She lives in New York City with her husband Michael.



## **Kira Minkis, MD, PhD**

Director of Mohs and Dermatologic Surgery  
Director of Surgical, Laser and Cosmetic Dermatologic  
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**Kira Minkis, MD, PhD** specializes in the treatment and prevention of skin cancer. The Mohs micrographic surgical technique allows for the highest potential cure rate for high-risk non-melanoma skin cancers while removing the least possible amount of tissue. Dr. Minkis also has extensive training in surgical removal of early-stage melanoma with precise microscopic examination of the surgical margin. Due to her extensive research experience in the role that the immune system plays in skin cancer, Dr. Minkis is very interested in caring for patients at high risk for skin cancer development, such as those with altered immune systems following organ transplantation. Dr. Minkis has published in multiple peer reviewed journals, has co-authored numerous book chapters and has lectured at many national meetings. Dr. Minkis received her Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry with Honors at the New York University. She pursued her medical education and doctorate in molecular oncology and immunology at New York University School of Medicine. Her doctoral dissertation research focused on studying the immune response to melanoma and development of a therapeutic vaccine for melanoma. Dr. Minkis completed her training in dermatology at New York Presbyterian Hospital – Weill Cornell Medical Center, where she was awarded the Distinguished House Staff Award. Following her residency training, she completed a fellowship in Procedural Dermatology and Mohs micrographic surgery at Northwestern University and, in addition, was one of the first seven dermatologists in the US to have completed the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Cosmetic Dermatologic Surgery Fellowship. As a Weill Cornell-trained dermatologist, Dr. Minkis strives to continue the tradition of excellence in patient care and scholarly pursuits that distinguishes the Weill Cornell Department of Dermatology.



## **Christine Proding, MD**

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**Christine Proding, MD** is a dermatologist at the Department of Dermatology and Allergology, University Hospital of the Paracelsus Medical University Salzburg. She is part of the Clinical Study Center of the EB House Austria, a designated national center of Expertise for Epidermolysis bullosa within the ERN (European Reference Network) Skin and is head of the hospitals' outpatient clinic for rare diseases. In addition, she established a multidisciplinary Paediatric Dermatology clinic in 2020 and is Scientific Secretary of the Austrian Association of Paediatric Dermatology since 2018, when she also became the Secretary of the Austrian Academy for Dermatological Education. Dr. Proding lives in Salzburg with her family that includes her two children Valentin and Laetitia.



## Nikolaus Romani, PhD

Professor Emeritus  
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**Nikolaus Romani, PhD** is an immunologist who studies antigen-presenting cells of the skin, in particular dendritic cells with a focus on Langerhans cells, the dendritic cell variant of the epidermis. He is interested in dissecting their roles in the generation of immunity and tolerance in cancer and infection models in vivo and the ultimate translation of this knowledge to human medicine. Dr. Romani obtained his PhD in biology at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, in 1983. He did his post-doctoral training at Rockefeller University, New York, USA, in the lab of 2011 Nobel laureate Dr. Ralph Steinman, discoverer of dendritic cells. He became associate professor in 1990 and professor in 2012. Dr. Romani and his colleague Dr. Gerold Schuler helped make Innsbruck one of the first "dendritic cell strongholds" outside the United States in the 1990s. The *Experimental Dermatology Unit* at the Department of Dermatology at the Medical University of Innsbruck is focusing on immunization approaches that target defined subsets of skin dendritic cells by means of antibodies against antigen uptake receptors. The ultimate goal is to induce robust immunity, e.g. against cancer antigens, which will help to augment patients' responses to modern immune checkpoint therapies of cancer. He is a co-editor of *Handbook of Dendritic Cells: Biology, Diseases and Therapies* and is a recipient of several awards. He initiated and promoted the development of a strong dendritic cell research group and the establishment of the [Laboratory for Langerhans Cell Research](#) under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Patrizia Stoitzner at the Innsbruck Dermatology Department.



## **Simona Saluzzo, MD, PhD**

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**Simona Saluzzo, MD, PhD** is a clinical scientist interested in skin and mucosal immunology. Dr. Saluzzo grew up in the city of Turin, Italy, where she completed her medical degrees at the Medical University of Turin. She then started a PhD in Vienna, at the department of infection biology and CeMM (Center of Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Science) where she focused on basic research in innate immunity at mucosal level. She performed part of her PhD at the LMB (Laboratory of Molecular Biology) in Cambridge, UK, where she deepened her understanding of innate mucosal immune responses, particularly studying Innate Lymphoid Cells (ILCs) and type 2 immune responses during infection. Her research efforts revealed new understanding on ILC2s-mediated immune changes in the lung at the time of birth and its consequences in the responses to lung infections. She received different Prizes, the most recent being the Clemens von Pirquet Prize of the Austrian Society of Allergology and Immunology (OeGAI). Dr. Saluzzo completed her PhD in July 2018 and she is currently a 3rd year resident at the department of Dermatology and Venereology of the Medical University of Vienna and is interested in the immunological changes at skin level during HIV, as well as in the establishment of the HIV reservoir at mucosal and skin tissue level. For this research topic she earned the Clinical Scientist Grant of the Austrian Academy of Dermatology and Venereology.



## **Georg Stingl, MD**

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**Georg Stingl, MD** is Professor Emeritus at the Department of Dermatology, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria. Dr. Stingl earned his MD from the University of Vienna Medical School in 1973. After his internship and residency training at the Department of Dermatology I of Vienna's University Medical School, he worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Dermatology Branch of the National Cancer Institute (1977-1978) and as a guest scientist at the Laboratory of Immunology, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (1985-1986) of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA. From 1978-1981 he served as faculty member of the Department of Dermatology of Innsbruck's University Medical School and then moved to Vienna where he ultimately became Professor and Chairman of the Department of Dermatology at the Medical University. Dr. Stingl's major scientific accomplishments include the discovery of Langerhans cells as immunocytes and their role as targets of physicochemical agents, drugs and HIV; the first identification of the indigenous T cell population of rodent skin; the detection of anti-FcεR1 autoantibodies in the sera of patients with chronic urticaria; the use of genetically modified melanoma cells as vaccines for patients with far advanced disease; the induction of lytic molecules on dendritic cells after stimulation with TLR 7/8 ligands and the phenotypic characterization of innate lymphoid cells in normal and diseased human skin. In addition, he conducted many clinical trials investigating safety and efficacy of different immunomodulatory compounds. His work is documented in more than 300 original publications, 200 reviews and book chapters as well as four books. Over the years, Dr. Stingl has appeared as guest professor at several medical universities and as invited speaker at many symposia and conferences. He is a member of the board of several scientific societies and organizations, advisory panels, scientific journals and committees. During his career he has received several prestigious awards such as the William Montagna Award and the Stephen Rothman Award of the Society for Investigative Dermatology and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Skin Association. In 1999, he received the Honorary Doctorate from the Semmelweis Medical University in Budapest and the Silver Decoration of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria in Vienna. He is Honorary Member of the Society for Investigative Dermatology, the European Society for Dermatological Research and The Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology. He is also Member of the Austrian and the German Academy of Sciences as well as Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Medicine.



## **Stefan Woehrl, MD, MSc**

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**Stefan Woehrl, MD, MSc** graduated with a master's degree in Science in Biology/Genetics from the Universities of Salzburg and Vienna in 1996 and earned an additional Medical Degree from the University of Vienna in 1999. From 2000-2006 he did his residency in dermatology and venereology at Prof. Georg Stingl's Division of Immunology, Allergy and Infectious Diseases (DIAID) in the Department of Dermatology, Medical University of Vienna. In 2007, he became Assistant Professor ("Privatdozent") for Dermatology & Venereology at the DIAID and wrote his habilitation thesis on "Improvements in the clinical diagnosis of allergic diseases of the skin and the respiratory tract". From 2009 to 2011, he was an assistant and in 2012 he became Associate Professor at the DIAID. In 2012, he left the medical university of Vienna to become a full member of the Floridsdorf Allergy Centre (FAZ), Central Europe's biggest allergy outpatient clinic. Between 2013 and 2017, he re-joined Prof. Stingl's DIAID as part-time senior consultant. Dr. Woehrl is member of several academic organizations and international societies. His research interest mainly lies on the diagnosis of the whole range of allergic diseases in clinical allergology including allergic contact dermatitis, hymenoptera venom allergy, component resolved allergy diagnosis of allergic rhinitis and asthma and the clinical management of drug hypersensitivity.

## Fellow Booklet Dermatology



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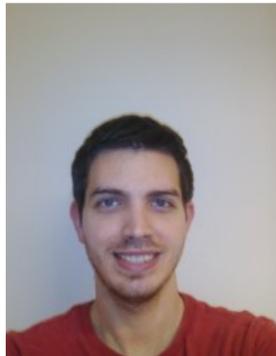
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## DIARY



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Qatar

### **Sunday, June 20**

I arrived in Salzburg on Sunday afternoon, flying from Qatar to Vienna prior to arriving. I had been looking forward to attending my first in-person seminar, post-pandemic, ever since I received my invitation. I had come a long way but seeing the beautiful town of Salzburg replaced any exhaustion I felt with pure excitement. My immediate impression was that the town looked so peaceful, like something out of a fairy tale, with all its charming castles and the gorgeous lakes. I was graciously met at the reception, where everyone was very welcoming, and was given my room key. I stayed in a cosy room on the fifth floor that had a perfect view of the beautiful gardens below. I decided I didn't want to waste any time and started exploring after I had settled in. I took a walk around the town, soaking in the gorgeous weather and admiring the beautiful sites. I returned to Schloss Arenberg at around 5:00 pm and got ready for the faculty meeting. I was nervous at first, but I quickly felt comfortable and welcomed by all the friendly faces of my colleagues. I had pleasant conversations with a colleague from the Czech Republic and enjoyed conversation over dinner with two Turkish colleagues. We were graciously greeted by Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky and Dr. Georg Stingl, who encouraged us to never hesitate to ask questions and advised us on ways to ensure we made the most of our time there.

### **Monday, June 21**

At 9:00 am, we began with our first session, but before we began, we were given a test. At first, I was nervous, wondering if I should have studied beforehand. However, I knew that

testing myself unexpectedly and making mistakes would ensure that I learned and would not forget the information provided. The session started with Dr. Georg Stingl, who gave us a fascinating view on the world of immunology and despite how difficult and intricate I knew immunology could be, he managed to make it simple. He opened my mind to questions I never thought to ask and gave me the opportunity to learn and focus on points in immunology which really helped me understand the pathogenesis of various dermatological diseases. I particularly enjoyed his lecture on atopy, allergy, and irritation of the skin. We then had a lunch break and returned to a very informative complimentary lecture by Dr. Richard D. Granstein and Dr. Joanna L. Harp, who despite not being physically present, gave truly engaging presentations over a video call. We were encouraged throughout the presentations to ask questions, and this helped us feel even more comfortable. In the afternoon, Ms. Stephanie Faschang provided us with a presentation on the American Austrian Foundation and its aims, like how the foundation's goal is to support its doctors and provide them with up-to-date knowledge on various medical fields. It was an enlightening first day, and at that point I already knew I was going to truly enjoy my time here. We then ventured off to enjoy the town and returned at 8:00 pm for dinner.

**Tuesday, June 22**

We started our second day with a fascinating lecture on syphilis and ulcerative STDs. Given by Dr. Georg Stary, this lecture engrained in my mind the need to keep syphilis on my list of differentials and really appreciate the complex mimicry of this disease. This was followed by an elaborate lecture on Genodermatoses given by Dr. Christine M. Prodingner, who despite the broadness of the subject managed to cover all points, from genes to diseases such as tuberous sclerosis and neurofibromatosis. Later, we had the wonderfully presented case presentations by my fellow colleagues, each showcasing the rare diseases they had encountered. The atmosphere in the room was continually friendly and everyone was supportive and eager to listen, creating such an easy and friendly environment to present and discuss in. We all thoroughly enjoyed hearing about each other's cases. It gave us the opportunity to not only hear about the cases, but also give an insight on approaches to management from different places in the world. After lunch, Dr. Joanna L. Harp discussed COVID skin manifestations and answered all our questions regarding the various skin manifestations this virus can present with. Afterwards, Dr. Richard D. Granstein gave us a lecture on the neuroimmunology of the skin, a topic that was wonderfully presented.

**Wednesday, June 23**

After a delightful breakfast, we headed off to our first presentation of the day, which was titled "Allergology for the Dermatology Practice", followed by a Drug eruption lecture given by Dr. Stefan Woehrl. Not only was this lecture very eye opening, but it also provided me with knowledge to take home with me, on how to approach patients with various allergies and drug eruptions, which are very frequently encountered in Qatar. I thoroughly enjoyed the case presentations given by all the fellows, showing us how medicine really unites us and how important it is to learn from each other. After a delicious lunch, we spent the afternoon hearing lectures on "Surgical Approaches" as well as "Various Forms of Skin Cancer" by Dr. Kira Minkis. This lecture was very insightful, shedding light on the many available surgical techniques and on the importance of Mohs micrographic surgery. After the lectures, I spent the rest of the afternoon exploring the gorgeous Hohensalzburg fortress.

**Thursday, June 24**

Our morning started with a wonderful lecture on the (Basic) Research as a Driver for Novel Therapies by Dr. Nikolaus Romani. It really helped unite the world of research and clinical practice and showed us how to apply both when providing care to our patients. This was followed by a very interesting lecture on the skin manifestations of HIV, which I always found to be a complex topic. However, it was very well presented and simplified in a way that helped me truly understand the many ways HIV can present. Then, at around 12:00 pm, my two other colleagues and I were graciously accompanied by Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky to the hospital to undergo a COVID-19 PCR test. This just further reassured me that I was not only privileged to attend such a fascinating and professional place, but also of the amount of care and attentiveness this institution gives to the fellows that attend. Despite these difficult times, they do the best to ensure we faced no hardships not only on our journey to the institute, but also back to our home countries. After returning from our PCR test, we were given an excellent and very informative lecture by Dr. Kira Minkis regarding the new drugs available to treat skin cancer, followed by a very beneficial lecture by Dr. Joanna L. Harp regarding the adverse skin effects of cancer therapies. Later that day, we all made our way to the grand hall to attend a beautiful concert by Ms. Heghine. I couldn't have asked for a more enjoyable evening, it was filled with laughter and joy with my lovely colleagues from Romania and Dr. Nikolaus Romani. The conversations I had throughout my time here not only taught me how similar we are, but also how much being in the medical field and having such passion for Dermatology can unite us.

**Friday, June 25**

We started our day with a lovely lecture on connective tissue diseases by Dr. Georg Stingl, who gave us very insightful information on how to carefully approach and investigate various connective tissue diseases, ranging from lupus to dermatomyositis and vasculitis. We were then given a very detailed and wonderful lecture by Dr. Wolfgang Bauer on the pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, and approaches to different bullous diseases. The master sessions ended by a post-seminar test, and I was surprised by how I had improved my knowledge within the short span of five days.

This was a week I will never forget. I am so grateful to have been able to attend, and I am so glad that I not only managed to gain so much knowledge that I can take back with me and apply in Qatar in my day-to-day practice, but also that I had the chance to interact with and have such stimulating conversations with my wonderful colleagues. I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone in the organization who worked so hard and so professionally to make this experience a truly unforgettable one. Personally, I would like to thank Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky for his kindness and efforts, Ms. Stephanie Faschang for all her hard work and support, and all the faculty members that graciously took the time from their schedules to provide us with all this information and shared their expertise with us. Last but not least, I want to thank my colleagues from all across Europe for creating such a friendly environment. I truly hope I will have the opportunity to visit the lovely town of Salzburg again, and I strongly recommend this class to anyone who not only wants to acquire the knowledge to become a better dermatologist, but also wants to create beautiful long lasting connections from across the world.