OPEN MEDICAL INSTITUTE SEMINAR in SALZBURG

In collaboration with the Medical University of Vienna

“Chronic Inflammatory Skin Diseases”

November 26 – December 2, 2017
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<td>BREAKFAST</td>
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<td>10:30 – 11:30</td>
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<td>Biologic Therapies</td>
<td>Atopic Dermatitis</td>
<td>11:00 – 13:00 IgE-Mediated Allergy/ Anaphylaxis/ Pseudoallergy</td>
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<td>11:30 – 12:30</td>
<td>Antigen-Presenting Cells</td>
<td>Rosacea and Acne</td>
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<td>12:30 – 14:00</td>
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<td>14:00 – 15:00</td>
<td>T Lymphocytes</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
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<td>Contact Dermatitis</td>
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<td>Optional: Participation in the Annual Meeting of the Austrian Society for Dermatology &amp; Venereology</td>
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<td>15:00 – 16:00</td>
<td>B Cells, Plasma Cells, Antibodies, Immune Complexes</td>
<td>Workshop Fellows’ Case Presentations</td>
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MUV SEMINAR
in
SALZBURG

"Chronic Inflammatory Skin Diseases"

November 26 – December 2, 2017

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 Zuckerkanbdlpreis 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 NewYork 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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Georg Stingl, MD (Course Director) is Professor and Chairman emeritus of the Department of Dermatology at the 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 a Faculty member of the Department of Dermatology of Innsbruck’s University Medical School and from 1981-1992 as Staff Member and Full Professor of Dermatology at the Department of Dermatology I, University of Vienna Medical School. In 1992, he was appointed Professor and Chair of the Division of Immunology, Allergology and Infectious Diseases (DIAID) of the Department of Dermatology of Vienna’s 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-FceR1 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. These and other findings are documented in more than 250 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 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. He is honorary member of the two leading societies of dermatological research, i.e. The Society for Investigative Dermatology and the European Society for Dermatological Research and Member of the Austrian and the German Academy of Sciences as well as Foreign Associate of the Institute of Medicine of the US National Academies.

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James Krueger, MD, PhD (Co-Course Director) is a dermatologist with a focus on the study cutaneous immunity and inflammatory skin diseases. He completed undergraduate studies in biochemistry at Princeton University, then obtained a PhD in cellular biology and virology from the Rockefeller University and an MD degree from Cornell University Medical College. He subsequently completed a dermatology residency at The New York Hospital/Cornell University Medical College. He has been a faculty member at Rockefeller University for more than 25 years, where he is now Professor and Head of Laboratory, as well as CEO of the Rockefeller University Hospital.

Dr. Krueger has worked extensively on the pathogenesis of psoriasis vulgaris over the last two decades and has mapped out many of the cytokine response pathways in this disease. This work has formed the basis for the successful development new cytokine-targeted therapeutics in psoriasis. His work is extensively published in more than 270 original articles and he is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. He is married to Dr. Emma Guttman, Professor of Dermatology at Mt. Sinai Hospital.

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Christine Bangert, MD is a dermatologist who specializes predominantly in allergic and inflammatory skin diseases. Dr Bangert was born and grew up in southern Germany in the state of Baden-Württemberg where she completed her undergraduate studies. She graduated from Medical University of Lübeck in Northern Germany and moved to Vienna completing her residency at the Department of Dermatology at the Medical University of Vienna. Her fellowship training specializing in allergic and inflammatory skin diseases was with Drs Tamara Kopp and Georg Stingl.

Dr. Bangert’s research interests include the pathogenic analysis of the cellular and molecular components of several inflammatory skin diseases such as allergic contact dermatitis, atopic eczema or psoriasis. Of special interest to her are clinical and immunological changes after treatment with biologic agents thereby learning more about disease-specific mechanisms. Recent publications include a report on the improvement of psoriasis after anti-IL-23p19 therapy in *Nature* and a detailed analysis of the cellular and molecular changes in atopic dermatitis after ustekinumab treatment in the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. Dr. Bangert is a member of the steering committee of the austrian task force of allergology and of various international and national dermatological societies.

Dr. Bangert works as senior clinical specialist in Dermatology at the Medical University of Vienna where she is currently head of the allergy outpatient clinic and the clinical trial unit. She lives in Vienna with her family.

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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.

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Marie-Charlotte Brüggen, MD, PhD is a Dermatology resident and researcher with special interest in inflammatory skin diseases. Dr. Brüggen grew up in Basel, Switzerland and graduated from Geneva Medical School (Geneva, Switzerland). Following a research fellowship during Medical school, she joined Professor Georg Stingl’s group at the Department of Dermatology, Medical University of Vienna for a PhD in Immunology. In this work, she investigated T cell-mediated immune responses underlying the different forms of cutaneous graft-versus-host diseases. Dr. Brüggen has pursued her interest in inflammatory skin diseases and the roles of T cells as well as innate lymphoid cells play in their pathogenesis.

Her work has been published in high-impact journals such as Blood the Journal of Investigative Dermatology, where she published her most recent paper on an in situ detection technique of innate lymphoid cells in human skin. Dr. Brüggen’s research efforts have earned her various awards, such as the Heinrich Auspitz Award, Roche Young Investigator Award and ESDR/ SID Collegiality Award and she currently holds several research grants (e.g. Vontobel Foundation, SwissLife grant).

Dr. Brüggen is currently working in the Department of Dermatology of Zurich University Hospital, where she does her dermatology residency and pursues her research career with Prof. Dr. Lars French. She lives in Zurich.

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Robert Knobler, MD is a dermatologist who specializes in the fields of cutaneous lymphomas, systemic sclerosis and extracorporeal photochemotherapy in all of its indications. Dr. Knobler grew up in Lima, Peru, and completed his undergraduate studies in the United States where he graduated both from Columbia College (Columbia University) of the city of New York, USA, as well as the Columbia University School of Engineering and Applied Science, New York, specializing in the field of industrial and management engineering. He then went on to graduate from the Medical University of Vienna, Austria, where he completed his dermatology residency. His fellowship training in the areas of cutaneous lymphomas and extracorporeal photopheresis was at the department of dermatology of the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, under Dr. Richard Edelson.

Dr. Knobler’s research interests have concentrated in the treatment of cutaneous lymphomas, being one of the first to introduce the combination of retinoids and interferon alfa for this indication and in the expansion and clinical evaluation of the efficacy of extracorporeal photophereses (ECP), beyond its initial use for CTCL. First studies were undertaken under his initiative in the indication for systemic sclerosis, graft versus host disease after allogeneic bone marrow transplantation, control of rejection after solid organ transplantation (heart, lung) as well as the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease. Among his contributions in this area are the “Guidelines on the Use of Extracorporeal Photopheresis” (Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology), the “EORTC consensus recommendations for the treatment of mycosis fungoides/Sezary syndrome” (European Journal of Cancer) and the European Dermatology Forum (EDF) “Guidelines for the Treatment of Sclerosing Diseases of the Skin”. Dr. Knobler was founder and head of the Vienna Photopheresis center at the Vienna General Hospital, considered one of the most prominent centers of its kind world-wide.

Dr. Knobler is Professor emeritus of the department of dermatology of the Medical University of Vienna and member of the faculty of the department of dermatology Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, New York.

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Klemens Rappersberger, MD has performed his residency in Dermatology and Venerology at the Department of Dermatology I, Faculty of Medicine, University of Vienna Austria, under the auspices of teachers like Klaus Wolff, George Stingl, Herbert Hoenigsmann and Klaus Konrad; several months of his residency he made in Innsbruck, (head, Peter Fritsch), in the electron microscopic laboratories together with Gerold Schuler and Nikolaus Romani. From 1989 to 1991 he was scientific fellow in the “Laboratories for Electron Microscopy”, University of Oslo (1988-1989) and at the Department for Biochemistry and Membrane Biology of the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg, Germany.

He specialized in clinical dermatology, immune-dermatology/infectious diseases and most importantly in electron microscopy and dermatopathology.

Major scientific observations were the detection of the HIV-1 infection of dendritic cells of the epidermis (Langerhans cells) and the consecutive replication of the virus in and release of mature viruses from these cells. Other scientific contributions include ultrastructural immunolocalization studies of desmosomal proteins in diseased skin in pemphigus and a severe variant of erythema multiforme. He firstly described the immunomodulative function and efficacy of a topical and systemic macrolide: together with the former Sandoz-Research Center in Vienna he developed pimecrolimus creme (Elidel®). In the more recent past he published the efficacy of intravenous Ig in livedoid vasculopathy and of inhalative-IL2 as a drug against pulmonary melanoma-metastases. His actual scientific interests are focused on proliferation pathways and signal transduction-mechanisms in melanoma.

He is consultant of a Laboratory for Pathology, Immunopathology and Molecular pathology.

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Elisabeth Riedl, MD, Assoc. Prof. is a board-certified dermatologist and dermatopathologist. After her medical training at the University of Vienna and a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, she received her Dermatology Board Certification in 2004. She continued her academic career in Vienna awarded as tenured Associate Professor of Dermatology in the same year. In 2008 she completed her Dermatopathology Board Certification. Since 2006 she served as the director of the outpatient clinic for chronic inflammatory skin diseases and since 2016 as the director of the Histopathology unit in the Department of Dermatology at the Medical University of Vienna.

She has multiple experience in clinical research in phases I – IV studies in psoriasis, has been a supervisor for students on their PhD and MD thesis works, served as an invited lecturer in numerous national and international events and congresses and has published multiple papers in dermatological journals with a primary focus on psoriasis.

Dr. Riedl recently joined Eli Lilly as Senior Medical Advisor for the International Business Unit with responsibility for Medical Affairs Work in Dermatology.

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Nikolaus Romani, PhD 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 Ph.D. in biology at the University of Innsbruck, Austria in 1983. He did his post-doctoral training at The 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 full 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 1990ies. Currently, he is heading the Experimental Dermatology Unit at the Department of Dermatology at the Medical University of Innsbruck. His lab is working 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, that 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 Dr. Patrizia Stoitzner at the Innsbruck Dermatology Department.

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Christopher Schuster, MD is a dermatologist who clinically specializes in autoimmune skin disease and HIV infection. Dr. Schuster grew up in Vienna, Austria, and received his undergraduate training at the Medical University of Vienna and at the University of Bristol, UK. After several years in basic science studying the ontogeny of the human skin immune system he started and completed his dermatology residency at the Medical University of Vienna. Dr. Schuster’s research interests include the development of leukocytes, antimicrobial peptides, and, most recently, the vasculature in skin as well as dermato-infectiology. Due to his interest in granulomatous skin disease he worked as a visiting scientist at the Brody School of Medicine (East Carolina University, NC). He is currently Assistant Professor of Dermatology and a peer reviewer for multiple major dermatological journals including the Journal of Investigative Dermatology.

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Georg Stary, MD 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 cutaneous T cell responses in the skin of patients suffering from graft-versus-host disease in Blood and the Journal of Investigative Dermatology. 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, 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 lives in Vienna with his wife Victoria and children Simon, David and Anna.

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Beatrix Volc-Platzer, MD is a general dermatologist who specialized in immunodermatology and paediatric dermatology. Dr. Volc-Platzer graduated from the University of Innsbruck and worked as post-doc at the Department of Pathology, University of Vienna. She completed her dermatology residency at the Departments of Dermatology at the Universities of Innsbruck and Vienna. Her training in immunodermatology was at the Department of Dermatology with Drs Georg Stingl and Dr. Klaus Wolff. Dr. Volc-Platzer was chief attending physician at the division of immunodermatology, immunology and allergy at the Department of Dermatology in Vienna (Head: Dr. Stingl). Dr. Volc-Platzer's research interests include immunopathology of graft-versus-host disease, diagnostic parameters of autoimmune diseases, in particular connective tissue diseases and bullous autoimmune disorders and treatment of autoimmune diseases with high-dose i.v. immunoglobulins, and more recently, pediatric dermatology. Her publications include papers on class II alloantigen expression by keratinocytes in the J Exp Med and the BJD, on the bone marrow origin of human Langerhans cells in the N Engl J Med. Recent publications include the European Guidelines of IVIG in the JEADV, a review of dermatomyositis in the Hautarzt and case reports on rare diseases in the BJD. She is a peer reviewer for major dermatologic journals (JID, BJD, Acta Dermatovenereol) and is an associate editor to the British Journal of Dermatology.

Dr. Volc-Platzer’s research efforts have earned her the Hebra Prize and the AESCA Prize from the Austrian Society of Dermatology and Venerology. Dr. Volc-Platzer has served as president of the Austrian Society of Dermatology and Venerology from 2008-2010. In 2010, she initiated the annual interdisciplinary meetings of pediatric dermatology in Vienna for dermatologists and pediatricians. Since 2001, Dr. Volc-Platzer is Head of the Department of Dermatology at the Donauspital/SMZ-Ost, a large community hospital in Vienna, and Lecturer at the Medical University of Vienna. She lives in Vienna with her husband and has two sons and two grandchildren.

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Stefan Wöhrl, MD, MSc graduated with a Masters in Science in Biology/Genetics from the Universities of Salzburg and Vienna in 1996, and, in 1999, earned an additional Medical Degree from the University of Vienna. 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 2009-2011 he was assistant, 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. 2013 he re-joined Prof. Stingl’s DIAID as part-time senior consultant.

Dr. Wöhrl 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.

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MUV SEMINAR
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"Chronic Inflammatory Skin Diseases"

November 26 – December 2, 2017

FELLOWS
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26th November, Sunday.

It dawned snowing, I almost cried with emotion. It was my first snow fall in my life! I didn’t know what it was like to walk under the snow but I still decided to go out and explore the city of Salzburg. Over time, I got used to it and could enjoy the city, a hot chocolate and the beautiful landscape from the Museum of Modern Art. After several hours I decided to return, because soon the welcome reception would begin. I wanted to get ready, make a good impression. It is a great pride but also a great responsibility to bring the name of your country with you. I changed clothes many times but still I was ready early and could be present when everyone was arriving. We introduce ourselves, we began to explore each other, we look for our names in the badges, unpronounceable!!, but that turned out to be an advantage, a topic for starting a conversation: how is your name pronounced?

Dr. Georg Stingl arrived, introduced himself and welcomed us and encouraged us to have our drinks. We almost ran towards them! well, I ran. I needed a little wine to relax, release my tongue a bit and improve my fluency. The dinner was a success, at least for me. I met Anita, Dadda and Tugce. I felt happy with them, we laughed a lot, we shared personal and family details. It has been a great experience!

27th November, Monday.

Oh my God, I fell asleep!! I woke up at 6:51 in the morning, I got ready as fast as I could and arrived late for breakfast. I had to go back to my room to take off two layers of clothes, I was sweating, I do not know if it was because of the hurry or because it was hot in the dining room. But, oh surprise! We had to prepare for the group photo with Faculty and it had to be in the garden! I almost froze! my smile seemed more a tetanic rictus! Then came the pre-seminar test, 67 questions of which maybe I knew the answers of the third part of it, I hope nobody in my country will know my score!

The classes began and I really enjoyed Dr. Stingl’s talk about the immune system and particularly the immune system of the skin. It always makes me happy to hear about how perfect and complex our skin is. Dr. Brüggen’s talk about innate immunity delighted me with the clarity of her concepts, her diction and the summary she made at the end. I was understanding everything or almost everything, but suddenly, there were a lot of acronyms, with numbers, with arrows, with figures and I lost myself! I felt dizzy. In the meal time, I tried to relax. At the end of the second part it was a little better, there were clinical cases and I felt again in my fields. Then another stressful event happened, they showed us how NOT to present the clinical cases. Definitely, I must rewrite mine!

28th November, Tuesday.

I almost could not sleep. It was maybe the jet lag or so much information from yesterday’s talks. I got up on time and went down to breakfast and I chat with colleagues from Ukraine and Sarajevo. It is surprising that there are so many wrong ideas about Mexicans: we don’t eat either burritos nor nachos, they are TexMex food and the drug dealer, Pablo Escobar, was not from Mexico, but from Colombia!, after clarifying these confusions, we went to the talks. Dr. Bauer gave an excellent lecture on immunological diagnostic techniques. For the first time I understood their principles, their mechanisms and proper indications. Now I can go back to my country and find out what we have and what we lack of these techniques, so I could do the work to implement them, because I know how to
use them now. Suddenly, there was some news: we had to advance some fellows presentations, fortunately there were enough volantes. My presentation is still scheduled for Thursday.

Then Dr. Riedl told us about therapies with biologics. Truly enlightening! I do not have experience with these drugs, my patients are not able to pay for them, but it is very important to know their pros and cons. I would like to have experience in the use of Anti IL-17 because, in my country, the prevalence of tuberculosis is a problem and the risk of reactivation of latent disease with Anti TNF biologics is high. I hope my work center can participate in a clinical study to see in vivo these drugs in action and treat cases that have not responded to conventional treatments! The first part of the sessions ended and we had almost two hours to go for a walk. It’s a sunny day and we should take advantage of it. Ah, I miss the sun!!! We walked towards the center, we enjoyed the view, the cold air, we took pictures, we talked, we laughed, we bought some souvenirs and we returned in time for lunch. After that, the presentations of clinical cases started. I don’t remember how many cases we listened, maybe a dozen. All very interesting, some really challenging and rare, others, like leprosy, familiar to me but extraordinary for them. A representative case of dimorphic leprosy of which, unfortunately, we still see in Mexico, especially in my state, Oaxaca. I loved the clinical case session. I feel more calm now. I think I have everything ready for my case presentation. The day ended again talking, laughing and exchanging opinions with my new friends. We compared our statistics and our experiences and had a heated discussion about cats and dogs at the dining room.

29th November, Wednesday.

The day was wonderful. After the revealing talks about the formation of anti-biologic antibodies, psoriasis and atopic dermatitis, we had the afternoon off and went out to explore the city. We went to the Festung Hohensalzburg. A wonderful fortress, museum and viewpoint. We took photos and went down the car to the Christkindlmarkt, where we tasted the delicious hot wine.

30th November, Thursday.

Today is the penultimate day of the seminar. I felt very tired, maybe I still feel the Jet Lag or the stress of my presentation exhausted me. The talks of the morning seemed to me as always very interesting although in some moments I could not follow them very well because I was falling asleep. That did not stop me from enjoying the lecture about contact dermatitis, a very frequent problem in Mexico, but unfortunately we do not have epicutaneous tests there. We have to base our diagnosis in our knowlege and in a detailed interrogation. It is very interesting to know the common allergens in European countries, both in contact dermatitis and IgE-mediated allergies. A world of difference!

In the afternoon we present our cases. I was the fifth to present. The case of Anita Hanyecz, from Hungary, was the one I liked the most. Both because of the rarity of the palmo-plantar hypertrophic cutaneous lupus, and because of the way in which it was presented. For my part, I felt nervous because I presented a strange and difficult case, with loose ends still but it was worth sharing to listen to other proposals. Dr. Stingl did not rule out the proposed diagnosis but insisted that all possible infectious and neoplastic tests should be exhausted before we can support the diagnosis of familial cutaneous lupus. I promised to send them the information we were getting until we could clarify the enigma.

Then we went down to dinner and returned to the living room to enjoy a beautiful concert of chamber for piano and violin. It has been a luxury and we are very moved and grateful for the attention they have given us. They have cared for us, fed us, given shelter and they have nourished us not only the mind but the spirit.

Thanks to everyone who makes this possible. My days at Schloss Arenberg will be one of the most important experiences of my life and I will always carry it in my mind and in my heart. I want to
return to my country and share with my colleagues all the knowledge acquired and encourage other dermatologists to live this wonderful experience. Tomorrow is the last day and then, we will go back to our countries. Some of us will stay a little longer to enjoy this beautiful country!

MARIA GUADALUPE MATUS RUIZ. OAXACA, MÉXICO.
Diary of Anita Hanyecz, MD
Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Oncodermatology
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26th November, Sunday.

Sunday evening I finally arrived at Salzburg. After refreshing myself a bit, I met the other fellows and the course directors in the lobby. I was impressed by the courtesy how Prof. Stingl welcomed us one by one. I was amazed at the cozy atmosphere of Schloss Arenberg from the moment I entered, I felt as if the walls could tell stories of old times. We had a delicious dinner, and I met among others three very nice persons from 3 distant places of the world (Maria from Mexico, Davaasuren from Mongolia and Tugce form Turkey). We had a very great time together!

27th November, Monday.

I woke up before 6 as usual. After having breakfast, the seminar started. First we introduced ourselves shortly which was followed by the pre-seminar test. I liked the single choice answers. During the day we had presentations mainly about basic immunology. Given the complexity of the topic it is always useful to hear it again and again, considering the fact that all the biologicals are based upon that kind of basic research. I liked the interactive way of the presentations. After lunch we had a group photo together with the faculty members. In the afternoon we had a short session about how to prepare a case presentation properly. Prof. Stingl showed us two really interesting cases.

28th November, Tuesday.

Immunological lab techniques and biologicals in the morning. Still mainly basic science, but also from the clinician’s point of view. Case presentations in the afternoon. It was interesting to hear so many different cases from different countries. In the lunch break we took a short one hour walk to the river and the Christmas market. I had a pleasant dinner with friends.

29th November, Wednesday.

Today we started to shift towards more clinical topics, but still from the immunologic point of view. I liked it very much. In the free afternoon we visited the Festung Hohensalzburg with my new friends, had a fantastic view of the city and the surrounding snow-covered mountains from there. Also visited the Christmas market, and tried local Glühwein and Jägertee accompanied by beautiful outdoor brass-band music. We had a great time together! I like Salzburg very much, I am sure I’ll return with my family.

30th November, Thursday.

Today we’ve heard more about clinical topics. It was very constructive, useful to my every day practice, especially the recommendations regarding allergologic evaluation. In the afternoon I gave my case presentation. The chamber music concert in the evening was amazing, the two great musicians also gave us some insight of their own interpretation of the pieces they played. I liked the comments between the pieces. Then we had a glass of wine together, which was another very kind treat from our hosts.

And at this point I need to stop for a moment... I cannot emphasize enough my respect for Prof. Georg Stingl. I loved the interactive way he was teaching us, and the way he highlighted very important basic
questions that are frequently skipped even in textbooks. He gave outstanding presentations. He is a
great TEACHER! Furthermore, he also showed us some of his altruistic and warm-hearted personality.

I am extremely grateful and I would like to thank all the directors, organizers and presentors of the
seminar for their efforts to make us possible to take part in such an outstanding course!

ANITA HANYECZ, MD. PÉCS, HUNGARY.