SALZBURG CLEVELAND CLINIC SEMINAR ONCOLOGY A: GASTROINTESTINAL CANCERS
March 26 – April 1, 2017

- 34 fellows from 25 different countries and regions
- 7 faculty members from the United States and Austria
- 22 lectures and 3 workshops given by faculty
- 30 interesting cases presented by fellows
- 6 cases selected by faculty to be published in the Online Case Library

Faculty Group Photo, (L-R): Christopher Crane, MD; David H. Ilson, MD, PhD; Dietmar Tamandl, MD; Hans Gerdes, MD; Thomas Bachleitner-Hofmann, MD; Geoffrey Ku, MD; David G. Pfister, MD
26 March, Sunday evening. It is my first time in Salzburg. The weather was perfect and Schloss Arenberg looked like a big house in the middle of the forest, just like in the fairy tales. In the evening nervously everyone introduced themselves, without knowing that in the end of the seminar we will become much more than just participants from different countries. I was so excited when I realized that I was not the only gastroenterologist there and that Dr Hans Gerdes, MD was sharing my specialty. In the end, we had very tasty dinner and went to bed.

27 March, Monday. I woke up a little bit nervous. Went down to have a coffee and next to me sat Dr Crane, who in that time I did not know that was part of the faculty. He was really friendly and down to earth, with a great sense of humor, which was refreshing. After the introduction lecture, we had the pre-seminar test. Many of the questions were addressed to more or less unfamiliar topics for me, but still I had an opinion for each one of them and I was dying to know right away how I did. The first lecture of Dr Crane was at the same time interesting and confusing for me. I was surprised to know that in the U.S. do not use biopsy to differentiate HCC form ICC, they rely only on imaging tests to make the diagnosis. After the lecture, we had a little discussion with Dr Crane and he cleared out a few things for me. The second lecture, this time Dr Ilson was presenting, had a huge impact on my understanding of biliary tract cancers. Thank God for the third lecture- “Chemoradiation for Anal Cancer”, which clarified the disease management. Lunch time- everyone was so eager to share, “How they do it” in their countries. Next topic from Dr Tamandl, which was focused on imaging techniques, was quite informative. Finally yet importantly, Dr Crane discussed the short vs. long course radiation in locally advanced rectal cancer- glad to know that we are on the same page about this topic.
28 March, Tuesday. The first lecture emphasized the role of preoperative chemoradiotherapy for localized pancreatic cancer, which again was new information for me personally and I was curious to know if we use that kind of treatment in my country. In the next three lectures Dr Ilson presented chemotherapy regimens for pancreatic and colorectal cancer. In the end again Dr Crane blow my mind away with his presentation of ablative radiation for liver tumors, something I am sure we don’t perform in Bulgaria and I can’t wait to go back and discuss this opportunity of alternative treatment with my colleagues. After the lectures it was time for the fellow’s presentations. There were many interesting lectures, really well presented. Great work! Before dinner we took a walk in the city. I think I am in love with the magnolia.

29 March, Wednesday. The presentations before the coffee break were surgery related, which reminded me of my desire to become a surgeon when I was a medical student. The talk about HIPEC was of great importance to me, because my hospital is becoming a center for that procedure and I need to know the pros and cons of that plan of treatment and the limitations of it. The second two topics were presented by Dr Gerdes, the gastroenterologist in the faculty, I was really excited because the presentations were part of my everyday work and it was a pleasure to get to know the American guidelines of treatment and diagnostic plans. After the lunch a couple of friends took a taxi and went outside the city to visit Hallstatter See and Dachstain Mountains, it was a great experience. The day was finished in Armenian Lounge under cheerful conversation.

30 March, Thursday. Woke up at 6:30 a.m. Today I had to present my case and I was nervous, because I was one of the few who had 25 slides. I went down to the second floor in the computer room, to try to make some modifications, but I could not erase anything whatsoever. The whole day was full of interesting lectures, presented by our new lector- Dr Ku. After the coffee break, we had a presentation about NET- locoregional and systemic therapy, which is one of my field of interests and I think my patients will benefit from this new knowledge I gained. Lunch- everyone was discussing the age of Dr Ku. After that- presentation time! Again great cases, you can see that everyone had put a lot of effort in their presentations. My friend Katevan from Georgia was so scared that I totally forgot about my anxiety in the process of making her feel more comfortable and confident. She did an excellent job. When my turn to talk came, I don’t know if I did ok, but I was glad that there was an open conversation about the management of my case, I was curious to hear different opinions. After that, I was thrilled to find out that my case was one of the few, which were selected for electronic library. In the evening, the Chamber Music concert was marvelous. After that, we had a chat with the colleagues from the faculty, which was again inspiring.

31 March, Friday. Last day. Again a full day of gastroenterology related presentations from Dr Gerdes, which I absorbed like a sponge. “Endoscopic stenting” in the colon was an unfamiliar topic for me and I am curious to witness the whole process of “inserting” in real patients. After Dr Pfister, presented to us the history of MSKCC and every one of us wished for a second that they were part of that incredible team; we had to do the post-seminar test. Now it seemed much more easier than the first time. I am more than glad to know that I made just a few mistakes. One more noisy lunch with a lot of discussions and after that the graduation dinner which made us feel blessed and even more grateful for the opportunity to be part of such an event. In the late evening we went out for the last time and finished with a little good bye talk in the Armenian Lounge.

1 April, Saturday. Departure day!
25 March, Saturday morning: 
After long time fly and very tired I came to Salzburg. It was my first visit to this beautiful town, and I decided to travel by bus for view city. I found Schloss Arenberg very easy because of I had travel instruction sent by Salzburg Medical Seminar's Coordinator. Schloss Arenberg representatives met me warmly welcomed although my arrival time was very early. I had walking in Salzburg streets and enjoyed the beautiful views of city.

26 March, Sunday evening: 
After welcome reception, we enjoyed very tasty dinner and were introduced to each other. The atmosphere in Schloss Arenberg was very friendly and warm. After dinner, I and fellows talked to each other in a long time and sheared our impressions. Staff was trained.

27 March, Monday: 
I woke up at 6 o’clock and after breakfast the seminar started. From Dr. David H. Ilson, we gave short information about our seminar. He introduced the aim and goals of whole seminar. Pre-seminar test was very interesting but difficult, because most of answers of questions was unknown for me and I was scared. But, when the seminar begun, I realized that this information would be very fruitful for me. In the seminar was included latest treatment methods of gastrointestinal cancer which was depended on the newest results of researches. Second impression was seminar of Dr. Christopher Crane. about chemoradiation approach. Group photo with Faculty was memorable for me; It should be noted that Faculty were very friendly with us and these seminars looked like as friendly meeting.

At the end of the day we had workshop about how to preset a medical case presentation and it turned out to be quite useful.

28 March, Tuesday. 
I woke up as usual, had a very delicious breakfast; Our second day started with very interest subject – role of chemoradiation and chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer; From seminars of Dr. Christopher Crane’s I learned lot of needed updated topics that will be very useful for treating patients. After lunch started workshop of Fellows Case Presentations. Even though that I didn’t represent the presentation on that day, I was worried and support to my colleagues; Dr. David G. Ilson and another colleges were very constructive and gave us useful and necessary advices.

This day evening, we were invited to one of the oldest pub of Salzburg for beer party.

29 March, Wednesday. 
As usual our morning started at 7 o’clock by breakfast and then very interesting seminars about colorectal surgery; Dr. Thomas Bachleitner-Hofmann benefits and contraindications of surgery methods of colorectal cancers and sheared his experiences about minimally invasive approach. I found out, that very frequently used method of surgery is a robotic surgery and It was major surprise for me. The topic of Dr. Dietmar Tamandl from Medical University of Vienna was about gastric cancer and it was very interested because my presentation was about at the same topic. After lunch, we had free half day and we went to walk in Salzburg cities in a group. It was memorable trip because we enjoyed very much. Conclusion of the day in Armenian Lounge we had a friendly meeting and spent very enjoyable and memorable evening, because our friends from Mexico sang beautiful Mexican songs.

30 March, Thursday. 
I never forget this day because I met very clever and smart Dr. Geoffrey Y.Ku. All his topics were based on the newest researches, especially highlighted the target therapy results, because It’s so important in our future work. After very delicious lunch, as usual (thanks to our chef), we had second part of workshop of Fellows Case Presentations. On this time, I was 6th one and despite of experience of previous presentation I was tense but it was so interested discussion; My report was about the current patient of our clinic, and this discussion was very important for the planning future treatment. Dr. Geoffrey Y. Ku. gave to
me very important advices as related my patient’s case and general too. I remained very completed
with my presentation.
After dinner, we had very nice chamber music concert in Schloss Arenberg; than we had meeting in
reception and we shared with each other the impressions of the concert. It was really great evening.

31 March, Friday. The last lectures conducted Dr. Hans Gerdes about very interesting topic - role of
endoscopic ultrasound and stenting in GI oncology. After seminars Dr. David H. Pfister presented
impressive history of MSKCC then we done last summary test.
After seminar, we had a few hours to get ready for Graduation Dinner. It was so elegant and solemnity.
All of us were very exciting but little sad because of last day in Schloss Arenberg; Wolfgang Aulitzky’s
final speech was very touch. It was very major surprise form me that I have been awarded by
“Academic Excellence” certificate. After Graduated dinner all group went to bar for celebrating. It was
very memorable evening and I never forget the days spent in Salzburg.
Thanks to Faculty and Administration of Schloss Arenberg for this wonderful week;

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