

SALZBURG CLEVELAND CLINIC SEMINAR PATHOLOGY

January 8 – 14, 2017

• 33 fellows from 29 different countries and regions
• 7 faculty members from the United States and Austria
• 20 lectures and 4 workshops given by faculty
• 30 interesting cases presented by fellows
• 5 cases selected by faculty to be published in the Online Case Library

Steven D. Billings, Co-Director of the Dermatopathology Section at the Department of Anatomic Pathology at the Cleveland Clinic and Martin Susani of the Medical University of Vienna led this week's seminar of 33 fellows from 25 different countries to meet in Salzburg and learn about the most up to date issues within the field of pathology.

The faculty prepared challenging lectures, which covered a wide range of topics, related to different kind of tumors, cancer, and lesions. The lectures were held in the mornings, whereas the afternoons were set aside for workshops and leisure. Monday's workshop on how to present a case was followed by exemplary case presentations from the faculty to the fellows. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons the fellows had the chance to submit their own cases to the faculty and their fellow participants. This provided the unique opportunity to share and discuss special cases and problems the participants were facing in their respective countries. This mixture of lectures and active participation during the workshops proved to be effective for the fellows to improve their knowledge, since the post-seminar test results increased by nearly 27% compared to the pre-seminar test results, with some participants improving by around 50%.

On Wednesday afternoon, time was set aside for the participants and faculty members to enjoy a free afternoon on the Sound of Music tour. Later in the evening, the faculty visited the Augustiner Bräu, an Austrian beer brewery, alongside their accompanying family members. All appreciated the weekly chamber music concert on Thursday evening.

Schloss Arenberg provided a cozy and pleasant atmosphere for the participants to learn and come together as a group interested in the same goal: becoming the best pathologist they could be.

Faculty Group Photo, (L-R): Dr. Anke Scharrer, Dr. Steven Billings, Dr. Jordi Rowe, Dr. Deborah Chute, Dr. Susanna Lang, Dr. Martin Susani



Group Photo of Faculty and Fellows



SEMINAR DIARY FROM FELLOW

Diary of Arnis Abolins, MD, PhD
Department of Pathology, Rīga Stradiņš university; Institute of Pathology,
Pauls Stradiņš Clinical University hospital, Riga, Latvia
08.01. – 14.01.2017.

Day 1. Sunday (08.01.2017.): Arrival day. My flight from Frankfurt, Germany to Salzburg, Austria, was delayed for 2 hours due to the heavy snowing in Salzburg - airplane could not fly to Frankfurt and take us, but 2 hours later I reached Salzburg where really was lot of snow and still snowed. From Salzburg Airport I went to the hotel by trolleybus Nr.10, which stop is in the front of Airport`s main entrance. There you can buy Public transport ticket in the ticket machine (one hour ticket costs 2 euros, but in the bus 2.60 euros). The way from Airport to Schloss Arenberg is approximately 30 minutes long so I got a first sights of the city even heavy snowing. The Schloss is situated on the top of the hill, with big rock like a wall behind. I get key from the room in the fifth floor. At the evening we had the welcome reception with Faculty and all the fellows (introduction - what is what and what will be in the next week), but after that followed dinner. At the first all we looked a little bit shy, awkward, but quite fast in the restaurant everyone was involved in the negotiations, which after the dinner continued in the lobby, but due to the next week`s intensive schedule all went in to the bed very soon.

Day 2. Monday (09.01.2017.): Test and webinar. A day started with the breakfast at the restaurant (1st floor), after that we went to the seminar room (3rd floor) where Elisabeth Bourg, Seminar Coordinator of Open Medical Institute, gave us general info about the lectures and plans, plus the map with all lectures, which will be performed in this week. Plan for the each day practically was the same: 8:00 – 10:00 lectures, followed by 30 min coffee pause, and then again 2h lectures. Lunch time was 1h 30min, so approximately 1h you had free time. Then back to the lectures from 14:00 – 17:00 with 30 min coffee pause in the middle.

Before all lectures in the 1st day we filled multiple choice test with 30 questions, after that Steven Billings, MD, gave advices, tips how to make good presentation showed examples together with Jordi Rowe, MD.

Because at the home was order to prepare one case report with a aim to demonstrate it in the front of Faculty and other colleagues, lecturers decided who will present their case reports on Tuesday and on Thursday. I was putted in Thursday`s group, even by alphabetic order I was first. After the lunch we had 3 hours very exciting neuropathology webinar by Richard Prayson, MD, from Department of Anatomic Pathology, Section Head, Cleveland, Ohio, USA. Dinner started at 19:00, so free time before and after you can employ as you want. Some fellows used it for negotiations and table football competitions in the Armenian Lounge in the 5th floor, some went to the computer hall, but some checked donated books from Faculty in one of the Schloss rooms. I choose to take a rest.

Day 3. Tuesday (10.01.2017.): Sun in Salzburg. After breakfast Steven Billings, MD, gave a lecture about epithelial tumours of the skin, but Deborah Chute, MD, about squamous neoplasms in the head and neck region. After coffee break Jordi Rowe, MD, performed lectures about atypical lesions in the breast and how to approach and manage them. All of them were excellent and I was glad that these will be very useful in my daily practice. Specially these advices how to find out what is what.

Since this was not may case report day and the first time from arrival when heaven in Salzburg was blue and sun was shining, I used free time to visit some of the

most popular places in Salzburg. In the afternoon`s session the first half of the fellows presented their cases which were very different – started with ovary cancer and ended with colchicine poisoning. Before presenting the case we all were nervous because didn`t know what to expect, especially from Faculty, which was a jury, to choose the best presentation. At the end everything was okay and evening ended with negotiations at the dinner table. After that night peace.

Day 4. Wednesday (11.01.2017.): Austria. All third day`s lectures were performed by Austrian lecturers. Anke Scharrer, MD, started with perinatal autopsy lecture, but Susanna Lang, MD, continued with orthopedic pathology, including malignant tumours of bone and cartilage. In the coffee pause Faculty with fellows took a picture in the front of the Schloss Arenberg. Martin Susani, MD, ended these day`s lecture session with prostate biopsy reporting and after lunch we had free afternoon (5h) till dinner. I personally enjoyed walking by the river, so after dinner due to the heavy tiredness I went to the bed very early.

Day 5. Thursday (12.01.2017.): My day. Deborah Chute, MD, started my interested topic in the head and neck region – thyroid tumours. Lectures were excellent, detailed. So small details and tips how and what to do in different situations. Lot of questions, so it means that all were interested in this topic.

After coffee pause Faculty changed schedule, so in the place of skin pathology by Steven Billings, MD, Jordi Rowe, MD, gave us breast pathology lectures about spindle cell lesions, which are not so easy to diagnose. But with some tips, even secrets, I will use this information in my daily practice.

After lunch was my order to present the case report, so I started this session. Small stress before, but at the end everything was quite okay. Always you can do better, but nice that you can open the audience and let them smile. Due to the fast and effective presentation session we had little bit more free time like it was predicted, so I took again small walk around the city and enjoyed evening lights on the street.

Evening part started with dinner, but continued with a chamber music concert. A concert was opened by Vera Kooper on piano, when she played F. Chopin "*Scherzo no.1 in b minor op.20*", but then Irene Enzlin with cello joined and gave us a wonderful and unforgettable concert. Only what you can do after so exciting concert is to enjoy rest of the night.

Day 6. Friday (13.01.2017.): Last seminar day. Deborah Chute, MD, after unforgettable lecture gave me so much to think about thyroid and parathyroid pathologies - what I should change in my routine work, how to manage it much better, what I can upgrade? Lot of impressions. After head and neck pathology Steven Billings, MD, performed 2 skin pathology lectures about inflammatory diseases of the Skin (Part 1 and 2), which included lot of diseases, but with specific information, by which you can find out what kind of pathology exactly it is.

Lunch time was used to repeat all lectures which has been given to us in this week, because post-seminary test followed to check us what we gained, how reasonable was this seminar for each of us. After the post-seminary test was time to take a nap and be ready for farewell reception and graduation dinner in American style. After some appetizers Faculty gave us diploma, group picture and contact book with each of our contact information, picture inside. But then followed surprise of the evening. Faculty started to award fellows with highest test points, most progressive fellow and 5 best case report authors. They had first chance to take one of the books, so very fast disappeared interested theme books, newest and thickest books. After the best fellows Faculty raffled next fellow who can take rest of the interested book, so finally I got head and neck pathology book from Deborah Chute, MD. Since this was

the last night with all fellows together, some hours negotiations continued at the hotel lobby, but then sleep.

Day 7. Saturday (14.01.2017.): Departure day. Check-out was up to 11:00, so I used possibility to sleep till 10:00. After that I made my luggage and on time checked out from Schloss Arenberg. Again was snowing, but not so heavy like it was in the first day. I took legendary trolleybus Nr.10 to the airport, from which I flew to Frankfurt, and after that to Riga.

After that all I want to say big thank, gratitude to AAF, OMI seminar organizers for choosing me, for great lectures from Faculty, for unforgettable and unique opportunity to understand where I am in the field of pathology. Thank you for exciting, detailed, easy understandable lectures, which definitely will be used in my daily practice. And of course, thank you for chance to meet people from other countries, to share knowledge and to make new friends.

Arnis Abolins 18.01.2017.

SEMINAR DIARY FROM FELLOW

Diary of Ondrej Fabian, MD
Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, Motol University Hospital,
Prague, Czech Republic
8. – 13. 1. 2017

Day 1 (Sunday, 8.1.)

I arrived shortly after a noon and jumped right from the busy and gray Prague into the winter kingdom, called Salzburg. The whole city was covered by a one meter thick layer of a snow. When I arrived to the Schloss Arenberg, my feeling of being in the fairy tale intensified. The castle is beautiful, monumental and the interior is even better. I expected a dormitory, but it was a top luxurious hotel with clean and cosy rooms, nice lounges and big flamboyant halls, where our lectures took place. I had a quick shower, unpacked my stuff and went to the welcome meeting and a dinner. Doctor Aulitzki welcomed us and then we had some time to meet each other. The first person I met was a young lady from Slovakia, Elena. And she became my closest mate for the whole week. Then our lecturers arrived and we had a first opportunity to find out, how pleasant and warm people they are. A dinner was served in a form of buffet and I must say, that it fulfilled the criteria of a first class hotel meal. Then I went to sleep, I was tired after a long journey and the breakfast started quite early, at 7 am.

Day 2 (Monday, 9.1.)

After the breakfast and short introduction, we started with the test. The same test is done at the end of the week and its purpose is to show us, what improvement we made during the lectures. I must say, that even if I see this purpose, I didn't feel comfortable with that, because there was around 40 doctors from all over the world, some of us were young doctors still in training and some of us skilled pathologists after a couple of decades of specialized work. So the test cannot provide an objective information about our progress, in my opinion.

After the test, the first lectures started. Professor Billings provided an excellent differential diagnosis of melanocytic tumors of a skin. Clear, straight and very practically oriented. After a lunch, we continued with the update in gliomas, in the form of videoconference with professor Prayson. It was good, but for me, who knows very little about this topic, maybe a little bit too advanced. Then we saw a short OMI/AAF promotional presentation and went for a dinner. We spent the rest of the day in the lounge and had a really good time. It is funny, that even in the company of a people from all over the world, the main (and maybe the only one) topic was an alcohol. Types of alcohol (which was vodka only, we are eastern world after all), drinking games, drinking stories, drinking fails, etc. At least we didn't talk about work.

Day 3 (Tuesday, 10.1.)

On Tuesday, we continued with adnexal tumors of the skin, where I realized, how many cases I diagnosed wrong during my short career. Then, we had the first opportunity to meet doctor Chute, with squamous neoplasia of a head and neck. She was replaced by a doctor Jordie Rowe later, with lectures about breast atypia. After the lunch, our time came. The first half of the trainees presented their cases to the faculty. Around 15 interesting cases from all over the world were presented to us and it was a pleasant and inspiring afternoon.

Day 4 (Wednesday, 11.1.)

Wednesday was, sadly, the weakest day of the whole week. Dr. Scharrer had a nice presentation regarding the fetal autopsy, which is my field of interest as well. Then

we continued with an orthopedic pathology, specifically bone tumors. These two lectures were the weakest, in my opinion, and they didn't give us too much. The morning session ended with Dr. Susani and his useful lecture about prostate grading and reporting.

We had a free time in the afternoon. Many people went to the castle, I decided to walk the city. Salzburg center isn't big, three hours were more than enough for the whole city center and I had an opportunity to absorb a winter atmosphere, visit numerous shops and buy some souvenirs.

Day 5 (Thursday, 12.1.)

Thursday was a day of a thyroid gland. Dr. Deborah Chute provided us a comprehensive view to the thyroid neoplasms and her lectures were maybe the most practically useful ones we heard during the whole week. Papillary and follicular neoplasias, as well as parathyroid adenomas and hyperplasias, C-cell hyperplasia and medullary carcinoma (that were presented on Friday). These are the lesions, that we deal almost each day with. The morning was closed by Dr. Rowe and her spindle cell lesions of a breast. Now we all know, how to recognize metaplastic carcinoma, phyllodes tumor and fibromatosis.

We presented the rest of our own cases during the afternoon. The evening was special, because we were invited to the classical concert, that took place in the lecture hall. Once again, we had a great time.

Day 6 (Friday, 13.1.)

Friday started in melancholic mood, because we all knew, that everything draws to an end. After Deborah Chute completed her thyroid course, prof. Billings continued with his survival package of inflammatory dermatoses. And that was all, we were at the end. There was only one unpleasant duty – the second test. We did it in the afternoon and then the farewell evening came. It was made in a luxurious style, but familiar as well. We were seated in one from the big lecture halls and dinner was served in the style of American family, as we were told. Groups of 8 to 10 people were sitting at one table and one person served all. For us, it was unusual and sometimes a little bit tricky, but we enjoyed that very much. During the evening, the faculty announced the best case reports, best test results and we were gifted with the free pathological books, group photos and CDs with all lectures, even with audio. Very unusual and hearty gesture. We spent the rest of the evening with a glass of wine and friendly talk.

Day 7 (Saturday, 14.1.)

On Saturday, I said farewell to my colleagues (well, better to say friends after the week) and jumped on the train back to Prague, my hometown. I must say, that this course was one from the best weeks I have ever had in my life. Absolutely perfect lectures, even better lecturers, friendly atmosphere, nice people and a locality with almost a fairy-tale feel. I would recommend this course to anyone. It doesn't matter, if You are a young pathologist in training like me, or a skilled and experienced professional. This place gives You a lot – a huge amount of knowledge for your routine work, new contacts, new friends, but mainly, a lifelong feeling, that it was a really good decision to participate in this course.

With best regards and thanks
Ondrej Fabian