CHOP SEMINAR in SALZBURG

In Collaboration with the Medical University Graz

"Pediatric Allergy and Immunology"

5 February – 11 February, 2017
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Faculty Photo (L-R):
Kathleen Sullivan, MD; Eva-Maria Varga, MD; James Corry, MD;
Antonella Cianferoni, MD; Shiang-Ju Kung, MD

Group photo of Faculty and Fellows:
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<td>I Introductions</td>
<td>Allergic &amp; Nonallergic Rhinitis</td>
<td>Preschool Wheeze – Evaluation &amp;</td>
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<td>Testing for Environmental</td>
<td>Spirometry in Pediatric Asthma</td>
<td>Asthma Phenotypes &amp; Severe</td>
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<td>Deficiencies</td>
<td>Allergy</td>
<td>James Corry MD</td>
<td>Asthma Management</td>
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<td>Kathleen Sullivan MD</td>
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<td>Eva-Maria Varga MD</td>
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<td>10:00 – 10:30</td>
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<td>10:30 – 11:30</td>
<td>Unusual Viral Infections in</td>
<td>Allergen Immunotherapy in</td>
<td>Food Allergy- IgE &amp; Non IgE</td>
<td>When to Introduce Foods in</td>
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<td>Immune Deficiencies</td>
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<td>Eosinophilic Esophagitis</td>
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<td>of Our Century</td>
<td>Disorders</td>
<td>Antonella Cianferoni MD</td>
<td>Therapy</td>
<td>Eva-Maria Varga MD</td>
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<td>Kathleen Sullivan MD</td>
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<td>How to Present a Case</td>
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<td>18:00 – 19:00</td>
<td>Faculty Only Meeting to Review</td>
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<td>Faculty Dinner in Private Home</td>
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<td>20:00 – 21:00</td>
<td>19:30 – 20:30 Welcome DI NNER</td>
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CHOP SEMINAR
in
SALZBURG

"Pediatric Allergy and Immunology"

February 5 – February 11, 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 Zuckerkandlpreis 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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James Corry MD (Course Director) is an allergist with a special interest in childhood asthma. Dr. Corry spent his youth in St. Louis, Missouri and continued in the practice of allergy immunology in the same location for most of his career. He was an undergraduate at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. He attended Washington University Medical School followed by a fellowship in Allergy Immunology at National Jewish Hospital and Research Center in Denver, Colorado. He then returned to St. Louis and was in private practice, caring for children and adults with allergies and asthma for three decades. In addition, he was co-director and then attending physician in the Cystic Fibrosis Center at St. Louis Children’s Hospital from 1978 until 2000. He was attending physician in the allergy clinic at St. Louis Children’s Hospital from 1978 to 2007 where he taught residents and fellows in training. He was a co-investigator for the NIH sponsored Childhood Asthma Management Program (CAMP) and Childhood Asthma Research and Education Network (CARE). These studies focused on defining the best care for children with asthma. He finished this stage of his career as Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Washington University Medical School. In 2007 he joined the Division of Allergy Immunology at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and continues to care for children along with teaching residents and fellows. He is currently Program Director for the Allergy Immunology Fellowship at CHOP. He lives with his wife, Sandra, and has two grown children and three grandchildren living in New York and Wisconsin.

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Eva-Maria Varga MD (Co-Course Director) is a pediatric pulmonologist and allergist with a special interest in allergen specific immunotherapy. Dr. Varga obtained her medical degree at Karl-Franzens University in Graz in 1988 and shortly after graduation, became in charge of the lung function laboratory at the Dept. of Pediatrics in Graz, where she also started research in potential late phase asthmatic reactions following cold air challenge tests in children. After completing different house officer jobs, she commenced her pediatric education at the Dept. of Pediatrics in Graz and became a consultant at the newly founded Pediatric Respiratory and Allergic Disease Division at the Childrens’ Hospital in Graz.

Dr. Varga then did clinical research at the University Hospital in Zürich at the Allergy Unit of the Dermatology Department (1995) followed by a two year research fellowship at Imperial College London (1997-1999) working on immunological mechanisms of allergen immunotherapy and allergic asthma. Upon her return to Graz, Austria, she received her lectureship in 2001 and apart from her clinical work, has been involved in undergraduate teaching and research, predominantly on insect venom allergen and - immunotherapy in children and on the asthma preventive effect of oral grass pollen tablet immunotherapy in children. Until November 2015, she was the national study co-ordinator for the GAP (Grazax asthma prevention) trial, a large European multi-centre study and managed to retain the highest number of trial patients over the five year study period. Dr. Varga also collaborates with the Pathophysiology Unit of the Medical University in Vienna on peanut allergy and sensitization profiles to peanut in the Austrian population.

Professor Eva-Maria Varga was a local organizing committee member for the Pediatric Asthma and Allergy conference in Berlin (PAAM) in 2015 and served as a local organizing committee member for the EAACI annual allergy congress in Vienna in 2016.

Currently, Dr. Varga is involved in the development of the Allergen Immunotherapy Guidelines by the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) and is co-chairing the Task Force on Insect Venom Allergen Immunotherapy. She is also Section Board Member of the Immunotherapy Interest Group at EAACI and Board Member of the Austrian Society for Allergy and Immunology (ÖGAI).

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Antonella Cianferoni, MD is an experienced, ABAI certified, practicing pediatric allergist with a special clinical and research interest in food allergy. She practices pediatric allergy and immunology at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Allergy Division and Center for Pediatric Eosinophilic Disorders.

Dr Cianferoni is originally from Florence, Italy, where she received her medical degree and her Ph.D. in immunology at the University of Florence, Italy. She did also her first residency school in pediatrics at the A Meyer hospital in Florence. She then pursued opportunities in the United States, including a research fellowship at Johns Hopkins, a clinical fellowship in Allergy and Immunology at Boston Children's Hospital and residency in Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She joined the faculty of the Department of Pediatrics, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Allergy and Immunology Division in 2007 as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP).

Dr Cianferoni is active both in clinical and translational research. She is the co-director for the Food Allergy research and Education (FARe) center at CHOP. She is the principal investigator in the first and only epicutaneous desensitization study for milk allergy in children with eosinophilic esophagitis. She is also the coinvestigator in many other food desensitization trials.

Dr Cianferoni also directs a laboratory interested in understanding how children develop IgE and non-IgE mediated food allergy, especially to milk. She has described for the first time how food-derived lipids contribute to food allergy sensitization, by activating a subgroup of T cell called Invariant Natural Killer T cells (iNKTs). She is now focusing on understanding the role of T cells and their response to milk in children with eosinophilic esophagitis, IgE mediated food allergies and food protein induced enterocolitis. Her research has been funded by the National Institute of Health) NIH as well as many organizations such as American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI), American partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders (APFED).

She is an author of more than 60 peer reviewed publications and book chapters.

Dr Cianferoni is very involved in the AAAAI and European Academy of Allergy and Immunology (EAACI). She is the current secretary for the BCI section at the AAAAI, and as such she is part of the committee that programs the annual meeting. She is also on the Board for the Interest Group for Eosinophilic Esophagitis for the EAACI.
Dr Cianferoni has been married to Michael, who is from Perth Australia, since 2003. They met while they were both fellows at the John’s Hopkins Allergy and Asthma Center and have two children, 8 year old John and 3 year old Claire. Dr Cianferoni and her family live in the suburb of Philadelphia and like to travel mainly to visit relatives in Italy and Australia. Dr Cianferoni also likes the beach, skiing and running.

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Shiang-Ju Kung, MD is a pediatric allergist and clinical immunologist with a special interest in food allergies and global health. Dr. Kung was born in Taipei, Taiwan and grew up in South Africa, where she completed her schooling and later her medical training at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. She started her pediatric residency in South Africa and obtained her Diploma in Child Health. In 1999, she relocated to Philadelphia, USA and completed her combined pediatric-internal medicine residency at Albert Einstein Medical Center. This was followed by allergy/immunology fellowship training at Thomas Jefferson University. She joined the Division of Allergy and Immunology at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia in 2007 and has been working there part-time for the past decade.

For 8 of those years, she was physically based in Gaborone, Botswana (Southern Africa), where she helped establish Botswana’s first department of pediatric and adolescent health, at the University of Botswana. She was intensively involved in teaching medical students, curriculum development, training pediatric residents and clinical care. She served as Chair of the Department of Pediatrics for 2 years during that duration. In addition, she was the only allergist in the country and strongly advocated for improved asthma and allergy care both in public hospitals and private practice, as well as participating in continued medical education for local clinicians. Dr. Kung also collaborated with allergists in the Southern African region and described some novel locally relevant allergens including mopane worm food allergy.

Since July 2015, Dr. Kung has returned to work at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, where she is primarily focused on clinical care of allergy out-patients. She is married to Andrew, a Pediatric Infectious Disease specialist and medical director of global health at CHOP. They have one son, Michael, aged 10. Dr. Kung enjoys reading in her spare time and spends lots of time knitting and crocheting in between shuttling Michael to his various sporting activities. Dr. Kung speaks English and Mandarin and a little Afrikaans.

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Kathleen Sullivan MD trained at UCSF and Johns Hopkins and has been at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia since 1993. She is currently the Division Chief of Allergy Immunology, overseeing one of the largest North American clinics for primary immune deficiency. She is a past president of the Clinical Immunology Society and serves on the Basic and Clinical Immunology Committee of the AAAAI and the AAAAI Board. She is on the steering committee of the USIDNET, the North American registry of patients with primary immune deficiencies. Her basic science research interests include understanding inflammation and the mechanism of regulating gene expression in inflammatory diseases. Her clinical interests include the study of patients with DiGeorge syndrome/Chromosome 22q11.2 deletion syndrome and understanding the variables related to outcomes of patients with primary immune deficiencies.

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"Pediatric Allergy and Immunology"

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Arrival, Sunday evening. Arrived in Salzburg after a 3-hour-long train journey from Vienna. Of course I got the No 6 bus in the wrong direction so by the time I got to Schloss Arenberg it was quite late. Walking up the gravel path in the quiet darkness made me think of scenes very different from the ones from “The sound of music”. But my anxieties were quickly dissipated once I got inside. The staff at reception was friendly and helpful. Later on the faculty members welcomed us and tried to put us all at ease. The accommodation feels a bit “odd” at the beginning but provides everything you need for a comfortable stay.

The sessions, Monday - Friday. The morning session started at 8 o’clock. I must admit I found the way the pre-seminar test was organized quite intimidating – it reminded me of my school exams in pre-1989 Bulgaria.

As a stark contrast all the faculty members were very friendly and approachable. Dr. Kate Sullivan got us all playing a “medical game” so that we can get to know each other. More of the same, please!

I won’t go into detail about the content of each lecture but all of them were well structured, of appropriate duration but most of all the content was geared towards everyday clinical practice. Data from the latest research was presented, some of which not even published yet!!! Every faculty member had their own presentation style, some more vivid and colorful than others but all truly inspirational. I was thinking: “Imagine what it is like working with these people on a daily basis, being able to ask their expert opinion whenever you need to!” I honestly envied the junior doctors working alongside them.

Allergies are sometimes called “the plague of the 21st century”. In Bulgaria there are still only few specialists in the area and patients quite frequently are seen by different doctors who offer just temporary relief. But the seminar showed me there is light at the end of the tunnel. As our knowledge and understanding of how allergies develop we are able to predict, prevent and treat some of them. After the seminar I felt better equipped to deal with allergy issues in my everyday work as a Pediatrician as well as when to refer patients to an allergologist.
There were plenty of opportunities and enough time for questions and discussions after each lecture as well as during the breaks.

**Graduation dinner, Friday evening.** Thoughtfully organized with personal attention to each one of the fellows. Felt like we were awarded for some special achievement.

**Fellows’ case presentations.** These took place on two afternoons – Tuesday and Thursday. Nerve-racking experience for me personally but some of the other fellows seemed to be born presenters. I know the purpose of these presentations is to provoke discussion based on clinical experience but somehow it eluded me.

**Food.** Fantastic and plenty of it!

**Social life.** I met some really interesting people from all over the world and we shared many personal and professional experiences. We had walks in the beautiful old town, visited the castle on the top of the hill and had a beer or two in the Stiegl brewery. Towards the end of the week I had made some true friends.

Chamber music concert on Wednesday evening – another feature which showed how much thought and attention go in organizing a seminar. Made me feel truly pampered.

**Departure, Saturday morning.** On the road again, back to personal and professional routines, sad to leave behind this magnificent city but most of all the wonderful people that I met – both faculty and fellows. Thank you!
Sunday, 5 February. In the late afternoon, we came to the Salzburg. Below the night lights showed up the city and its baroque architecture. Finally we reached beautiful Shloss Arenberg. There were many applicants and only 32 of them are here now. I was so proud to be a part of this meeting and to represent my country.

Monday, 6 February. Course Director James M. Corry made introduction of Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and announced first lecturer Kathleen Sullivan, Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania and Chief at the Division of Allergy and Immunology. Before lecture we had pre-seminar test. After test we talked about Immune Deficiencies. To be honest, that one, for me strange topic, started to be more familiar. I could feel experience in every word, and once again I was glad to be a part of this Program. At the coffee break I introduced some great fellows, and I knew I met new friends for the life!

Tuesday, 7 February. Day started amazing! After great breakfast we went to the Lecture Room and look...It was snowing! Snowy white snowflakes covered the environment and the Shloss was like one from the fairytales. Shian Ju Kung attending physician at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia started a first lecture about Allergic Rhinitis, which is familiar topic so it was easy to follow. Also, she remained us of some important aspects of allergies in children. After the lunch fellows presented their cases. We could hear some really interesting cases. Some of them were interesting and unknown to the faculty also. I started to think about how to present my case. I have to be honest, I was scared.

Wednesday, 8 February. This was the day with a free afternoon. I admit all I could think about is a coffee in down town and the beauties of architecture around. Night before I read about city and its sights. I was planning a great day with other fellows. But just then James M. Corry started lecture and I realized how wheezing topic was useful for my further work. After coffee breakwe had lecture about food allergies, the most interesting topic to me and fabulous Antonella Cianferoni, assistant professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania. This day was amazing! After lunch we went to visit city. I will need a many papers if I start to tell you about my impressions about Salzburg! There are so many interesting things from the name of a town to the beautiful buildings, gardens and river side. Every made picture was followed with a story to remember.

Thursday, 9 February. This was the day of my presentation. I was the first at the line. My first slide was with a photo of Tara River Bridge, above the second deepest canyon in the world, located at the North Montenegro, but I could not say a word 😊 so I continued to my patient story. Actually, everything passed well, and afterwards I realized that we were good but still have job to do and to continue with patient treatment.
Friday, 10 February. Last lecture day with post-seminar test started. The end of lectures was near. Eva Maria Varga, professor at the Medical University of Graz and Senior Physician at the Respiratory and Allergic Disease Division, was talking about Anaphylaxis, and brought some new perspectives to recognizing and treatment of this important condition. After post seminar test we all felt a relief. We were all satisfied with the knowledge that we have gained, and that will improve our further work such as condition approach, diagnostic and treatment. After lunch we had a couple hours for sightseeing. We went to the restaurant at the hill above with breathtaking view over Salzburg! Magnificent view at the urban architecture showed up below the walls. Those pictures left a huge impression on that moment we spent together. After the dinner and certification award we had great party at the city pub. But the clock was ticking and goodbye time was near.

Saturday, 11 February. Last day at the Shloss Arenberg. Everyone was in a rush, quick breakfast and time to say goodbye. Despite the hard lessons, time passed quickly like in a few moments and just in the second a beautiful view of Montenegro’s coast showed up below the airplane. In ears sound of Mozart’s Sonatas and hello home, I have so much to tell!
**Sunday, 2 February.** When I was chosen to participate in CHOP Seminar “Pediatric Allergy and Immunology” in early December it was a wonderful Christmas present for me! I was so grateful to American-Austrian Foundation for the opportunity to be part of that prestigious seminar in Salzburg. Furthermore, the Foundation covered not only my accommodation and course materials, but also my flight tickets to Salzburg. I arrived on 2nd February at “Schloss Arenberg” in the evening. I think it is a wonderful idea of the Foundation to have an authentic castle for accommodating of faculty and fellows. When I entered my room, it was so delightful to find myself in a cozy, fancy room where I feel like at my home. In the late afternoon, we came to the Salzburg. Below the night lights showed up the city and its baroque architecture. Finally we reached beautiful Schloss Arenberg. There were many applicants and only 32 of them are here now. I was so proud to be a part of this meeting and to represent my country.

**Monday, 3 February.** The adventure began. I have really enjoyed reading the menu of the restaurant on the elevator wall every day. The Grand Hall is excellent for the purposes of the Seminar. It is large and illuminated, with comfortable tables and chairs, and I really appreciate that cute bottles of water provided during the lectures. Another very useful thing was the binder with printed slides of all the lectures for every student. We had the opportunity to listen carefully the faculty and then write down some notes on those printed papers. The schedule for the seminar was just right – with enough time for the lectures and discussions. Each day we had coffee break to rest for a while, and then a longer lunch break. There was plenty of time to walk around the castle park enjoy the beautiful statues there. I was introduced to some sculptural works of Tuchowski, Heiliger, Riestra, Rickey and other artists, as well as some photos and paintings exhibited in the whole castle.

The program began with Pre-seminar test. I knew about it from an email before so I tried to prepare by reading some articles covering the topic. The test was not very difficult, but I did not answer to all the questions. Then we proceed with the lectures of Kathleen Sullivan entitled “Immunology Overview”. I liked her lectures the most because that is what I am specializing in. She gave us some key points which are not written in the textbooks. Then we had another wonderful overview lectures in the field of Allergy Epidemiology, Allergen Immunotherapy (Dr. Varga, Co-Director of the Seminar) and Adaptive Immunity. We had a great presentation about the AAF and Open Medical Institute from Elisabeth Bourg. I liked the slogan “Medical Education beyond Borders”. The education for that day was closed with workshop covering the topic how to prepare and present a case (Dr. Corry). It was very helpful, especially for those of us who were not ready with their presentations. Every day we had some free time to go sightseeing around the castle or the city. Another privilege of the castle is that the city center is so near. The dinner was just amazing, as every subsequent day. I managed to finish my PowerPoint presentation for the next day in the computer room located in the library room on the floor just below the Grand Hall.

**Tuesday, 4 February.** We had 4 lectures – two of Dr. Saltzman about Allergy testing and Eosinophilic esophagitis. I was very interested because I have no experience in that field yet. Then we had the last
lectures from Dr. Sullivan about Innate Immunity and Immunodeficiency cases. After lunch we had workshop. I love that part very much because at the workshop fellows have the opportunity to contribute to the other’s knowledge with their own experience by presenting cases from their practice. I presented my case too and I was very excited about that.

**Wednesday, 5 February.** We had 4 lectures – Dr. Corry in the field of pediatric asthma conditions, and Dr. Heimall – for Anaphylaxis and HSC Transplantation. The last two lectures were especially interesting for me. The schedule was made with free afternoon so that we had time to go to the city and do such things as sightseeing, shopping, etc.

**Thursday, 6 February.** On the fifth day of our stay, we had 4 lectures in the field of Asthma (Dr. Corry) and Food Allergy (Dr. Saltzman). After lunch we had the second workshop devoted to the clinical case presentations of the fellows. We learnt so much from the others – especially for diagnosis management of some rare diseases or different course and outcomes in some common diseases. The evening was very special – we had Chamber Music Concert. I was really surprised – the pianist lady was Bulgarian – Biliana Tzinlikova. I was so happy and did not miss the chance to say hello in Bulgarian to her after the concert. The violoncello musician, Jeremy Findlay, was very good too. After that I found some materials on the reception about the Arenberg castle and the AAF. I had read them carefully and I was so delighted to find out that members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra take up residence at the castle during the summer and lend their artistic support to music camps for children, as well as they had donated more than 5 million dollars to Open Medical Institute. I was impressed of those facts I had read.

**Friday, 7 February.** On the last day, we had interesting lectures about Atopic dermatitis (Dr. Heimall) and Venom Allergy and Urticaria (Dr. Varga). In the previous days I had managed to learn a lot and re-read some of the lectures in order to prepare for the Post-test. I think I did the Post-test better. We had nice free afternoon to walk around. The following farewell reception was a good opportunity to have conversations with the faculty members as well as the fellows in informal atmosphere. The Graduation Dinner was very special – located in Porsche Lounge, with American style serving, and with excitement of receiving certificates of attendance and awards for high achievements.

**Saturday, 8 February.** We left the Castle with a little bit of nostalgia but happy of the gained experience. Another good point of organization was the schedule of arriving (on Sunday) and departing (on Saturday). I think that is convenient for everyone. The knowledge I have gained in that friendly academic atmosphere will help me in first place to finish my specialization in Clinical Immunology and to take all my exams. The second, but not less important, the CHOP seminar gave me confidence to diagnose better my patients and courage to transmit all that experience towards my colleagues.