

SALZBURG CHOP SEMINAR PEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES

February 26 – March 4, 2017

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| • 35 fellows from 25 different countries and regions |
| • 5 faculty members from the United States and Austria |
| • 20 lectures and 3 workshops given by faculty |
| • 34 interesting cases presented by fellows |
| • 9 cases selected by faculty to be published in the Online Case Library |

At the end of February, a new group of medical fellows and faculty from around the world arrived at Schloss Arenberg in Salzburg for the Open Medical Institute's fifth seminar on Pediatric Infectious Disease. Dr. Paul J. Planet of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the course director, led a team of world-renowned infectious disease specialists from the United States and Austria. The faculty aimed to share their expertise in translational research, public health and evidence-based clinical practice with physicians who would be the future leaders of medicine in the developing world.

From the very beginning of the meeting, during introductions of the faculty and fellows at the welcome reception and dinner, it became clear that this was an exceptional and enthusiastic group. There was an instantaneous sense of collegiality and friendship that would only grow as the week went on.

The curriculum was composed of a combination of traditional didactic lectures, workshops, and interactive sessions. Dr. Jeffery Bergelson kicked off the week with a review and update on the latest in antibiotic treatment, and through the rest of the week he would go on to cover infections of the heart, lungs, and central nervous system. He also delivered a lecture on new emerging infections such as Dengue and Zika.

Dr. Kristen Feemster, focused on the newest ideas in infection control, the spread of respiratory viruses such as influenza, and vaccines. She included a timely talk on the strategies for understanding and approaching vaccine hesitancy. Dr. Feemster's interactive session on responding to an outbreak gave fellows real world tools for combatting epidemics in real time.

Dr. Hamid Bassiri used his extensive expertise on human immunology to give a comprehensive review of the immune system and primary immune deficiencies. He also lectured on systematic approaches to complex diagnostic conundrums in patients with fever and rash and fever without an obvious source.

Drs. Graninger and Planet tackled the emerging threat of antibiotic resistance with a series of lectures that addressed bacteria such as MRSA and CRE that have become resistant to our last resort antibiotics. Dr. Planet discussed the use of antibiotics in cystic fibrosis, and also the new field of microbiomics with a special reference to the growing practice of fecal transplant for gastrointestinal problems.

The didactic lectures seemed always to turn into lively discussions, which were rarely confined to the lecture hall. The questions, queries, and observations continued to flow in the coffee breaks and around the breakfast, lunch and dinner tables. At these tables, the fellows and faculty also learned about the medical systems, practices, and general life experiences in each other's home countries. This atmosphere created the optimal learning environment, one in which learning feels easy. The

participants clearly learned a lot during the seminar as evidenced in the pre-test to post-test average score improvement of 32.3% points.

For their part, the faculty also learned from the case presentations that had been carefully put together by the fellows. Some of the cases presented were so novel that they had never been seen in person by the experienced faculty. Through the interactive case presentation sessions, the fellows learned a systematic approach to dealing with the unknown in clinical practice.

As Friday approached, the weather warmed and the first few signs of the coming Spring emerged, making the participants even more reluctant to leave Schloss Arenberg. The feeling of camaraderie was clear at the Farewell Dinner, as the fellows received their diplomas and awards, posing for photos with each other and the faculty. It is remarkable that the contacts and friendships made over a short 5-day period will almost certainly endure and lead to lifelong professional relationships.

Faculty Group Photo, (L-R): Wolfgang Graninger, MD, PhD; Jeffrey Bergelson, MD; Kristen A. Feemster, MD, MPH, MSPHR; Paul Planet, MD, PhD, Hamid Bassiri, MD, PhD



Group Photo of Faculty and Fellows



SEMINAR DIARY FROM FELLOW

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26.02. – 04.03.2017

Sunday 26 February: People from 25 different countries arrived in Salzburg on Sunday evening. Everyone was excited and a bit nervous about the following week. But within a short time the atmosphere was great and interesting talks and discussions started. After the *Welcome Dinner* some of us came together in the 'Armenia lounge' on the 5th floor at *Schloss Arenberg* and spent a nice evening together to get to know each other having a lot of fun.

Monday 27 February: After some introductory words, the day started with the 'Pre-Seminar Test'. Some of the questions were quite challenging, but that's why we were here...We had interesting talks about antibiotics in general and antibiotic resistance in the morning before getting some tips in evaluating children with FUO in the afternoon. Later on we discussed about preparing and presenting a patient's case.

Tuesday 28 February: Today we first concentrated on the immune system and primary immune deficiencies. This topic is quite complex and I have already heard some lectures about it before, but this time it was explained quite well and I managed to acquire new knowledge. After that it was time for vaccination topics and we discussed interesting things about vaccine hesitancy and how to cope with the concerns of some parents, which is very important and useful for the daily work. We also got separate information sheets for answering the most common questions when it comes to vaccine hesitancy (e.g. too many vaccines?, autism?...) – Thanks for that! In the afternoon the first round of fellows' case presentations started – it was great to hear so many interesting and incredible cases! In the evening it was raining heavily, so most of us decided to stay at *Schloss Arenberg* and spent a nice and talkative evening together.

Wednesday 1 March: The morning session started with infections of the heart and an update about Influenza. Then we continued with management of community-acquired pneumonia, which we often have to deal with. In the afternoon we had time for other activities and a group of us went up to *Festung Hohensalzburg*, from where we had a great view of the mountains.

Thursday 2 March: Fever and rash syndroms and CNS infections were the topics for the morning hours, later on we had an interesting talk about viruses in the returning traveler. Cystic fibrosis was the last lecture, before we had our second round of fellows' case presentations in the afternoon – again we were able to discuss amazing cases! After dinner a chamber music concert (around 45 minutes) was organized, which was great, especially the flute player. Later on, we went out for Salsa Night...

Friday 3 March: The last day of the seminar started with *C. difficile*, fecal transplants and the microbiome. After that, we heard interesting strategies of how to handle an outbreak. Then we had great fun playing *Infectious Diseases Jeopardy*, where we were divided into 3 groups to answer some tricky questions. We really enjoyed the game! After lunch, it was time for the 'Post-Seminar Test', where we noticed that we have really learned a lot during the last days. During the *Graduation Gala Dinner* in the evening, we received our certificates and afterwards we went out to spend our last evening together.

Saturday 4 March: Leaving Salzburg.

When people from so many different countries meet in one place, it's a precious experience. This seminar had a huge impact for most of us. The things we learned will be very useful for our daily work, which is the professional aspect. But the other also important aspect were the discussions and exchange with the colleagues and new friends. We noticed that in some areas we all had to deal with similar issues, which was nice to share, while other problems were vastly different and related to certain countries.

All in all it was a great week with many impressions.

The faculty members were really open to discussions and there was always time to initiate a dialogue between the lectures or during the meals.

I will share the new knowledge with the colleges at my working place to spread all the interesting facts and issues we discussed.

Many thanks to all who organized this week, to the sponsors, the faculty, the team of OMI and of course thanks to all the other colleagues!

Lydia Obernosterer