CLEVELAND CLINIC SEMINAR in SALZBURG in collaboration with Medical University of Vienna "Cardiac Surgery" November 11 – 17, 2018
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### SALZBURG CLEVELAND CLINIC CARDIAC SURGERY SEMINAR

**November 11-17, 2018**

- 34 fellows from 24 different countries and regions
- 8 faculty members from the United States and Austria
- 21 lectures, 2 case presentation sessions and 1 interactive video presentation session given by faculty
- 30 interesting case presentations by fellows
- 4 excellent case presentations selected by faculty

### Faculty Photo (L-R)

Alfred Kocher, MD; Nikolaos (Nick) Skubas, MD, DSc, FASE, FACC; Guenther Laufer, MD; Dominik Wiedemann, MD; Patrick M. Grady, CCP; James J. Yun, MD, PhD

Not pictured: Edward G. Soltesz, MD, MPH and Marek P. Ehrlich, MD
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Sunday 11 November</th>
<th>Monday 12 November</th>
<th>Tuesday 13 November</th>
<th>Wednesday 14 November</th>
<th>Thursday 15 November</th>
<th>Friday 16 November</th>
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<td>07:00 - 08:00</td>
<td>BREAKFAST</td>
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<td>08:00 - 09:00</td>
<td>Introductions Pre-Seminar Test</td>
<td>Methods of Myocardial Protection</td>
<td>Surgery for Ischemic MR</td>
<td>Functional Anatomy of the Mitral Valve</td>
<td>Pathophysiology and Guidelines of Treatment for Atrial Fibrillation</td>
<td>Marek P. Ehrlich, MD</td>
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<td>09:00 - 10:00</td>
<td>Contemporary Approach to Coronary Revascularization</td>
<td>Perfusion Emergencies</td>
<td>Basic TEE for the CV Surgeon</td>
<td>Intraoperative Echocardiographic Evaluation of the Heart</td>
<td>Energy Sources and Standards of Surgical AFIB Ablation</td>
<td>Marek P. Ehrlich, MD</td>
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<td>10:30 - 11:30</td>
<td>CPB: Circuits and Solutions</td>
<td>CABG: Pitfalls and Complications</td>
<td>Practical Systolic &amp; Diastolic Function</td>
<td>Repair Techniques of the Mitral Valve</td>
<td>Outcome Evaluation: How to Measure Results</td>
<td>Alfred Kocher, MD</td>
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<td>11:30 - 12:30</td>
<td>Short-Term Circulatory Support (ECMO/Temporary LVAD; RVAD) &amp; WS: How to Run an ECMO</td>
<td>CABG for Patients with Severely Impaired LV Function</td>
<td>Choices for Myocardial Protection</td>
<td>Mitral Valve Replacement: Techniques, Results, and Challenges</td>
<td>Cardiac Surgery and the Health Care System</td>
<td>Guenther Laufer, MD</td>
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<td>14:00 - 15:00</td>
<td>Circulatory Physiology &amp; Pharmacology - Clinical Perspectives</td>
<td>Workshop Case Presentations</td>
<td>Learning by Interactive Video Presentations: Minimally Invasive Valve Surgery (Mitral-Aortic)</td>
<td>Workshop Case Presentations</td>
<td>Post-Seminar Test Evaluation &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>17:00 - 18:00</td>
<td>17:00 - 17:15 OMI/AAF Presentation</td>
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<td>18:00 - 19:00</td>
<td>FACULTY MEETING TO REVIEW THE WEEK</td>
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<td>19:00 - 20:00</td>
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**2018 Salzburg Cleveland Clinic Seminar in Cardiac Surgery**

**Sunday 11 November - Saturday 17 November 2018**
CLEVELAND CLINIC SEMINAR
in SALZBURG

"Cardiac Surgery"

November 11 – 17, 2018

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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Edward G. Soltesz, MD, MPH (Course Director) is a Surgeon in the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. He is board certified by the American Board of Surgery and American Board of Thoracic Surgery in general and cardiothoracic surgery. Dr. Soltesz specializes in adult cardiac surgery, minimally invasive cardiac surgery, valve repair and replacement, endovascular aortic surgery, percutaneous approaches to valve replacement, and complex re-operative heart surgery and heart transplant and mechanical support. A native of Cleveland, Dr. Soltesz graduated as valedictorian of St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland and received a full academic scholarship to the College of the Holy Cross. There, he obtained degrees in both Classics and Chemistry, was awarded the British Marshall Scholarship, and graduated summa cum laude as the class valedictorian. Dr. Soltesz then went on to receive his medical degree from Harvard Medical School where he was awarded the Harvard National Scholarship. Dr. Soltesz stayed at Harvard to complete his residences in general surgery and cardiothoracic surgery at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. He was awarded the Mannick Research Award for his NIH-funded research in cardiothoracic imaging and is the author of several peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts in this area. During this time at Harvard, Dr. Soltesz also earned a Master of Public Health from Harvard University School of Public Health with a focus on clinical effectiveness. Dr. Soltesz then returned to Cleveland to complete an additional fellowship in complex aortic and endovascular surgery at the Cleveland Clinic where he was subsequently appointed to the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery in 2008. Dr. Soltesz is the author of numerous articles in the areas of minimally invasive valve surgery, optical imaging in cardiac surgery, near-infrared fluorescence imaging, and complex valve surgery.

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Nikolaos (Nick) Skubas, MD, DSc, FASE, FACC (Co-Course Director) is a cardiovascular and thoracic anesthesiologist, who is also specialized in transesophageal echocardiography. Dr. Skubas grew up in Greece and completed his undergraduate studies at Aristoteles University School of Medicine in Thessaloniki, Greece. He completed his anesthesiology residency at University Hospitals (Case Western Reserve University) in Cleveland. His fellowship training in cardiothoracic anesthesia was at Barnes-Jewish Hospital (Washington University in St Louis). Dr. Skubas’ research interests include clinical applications of perioperative ultrasound and transesophageal echocardiography. Recent publications include research on transcatheter aortic valve and ventricular physiology. He has been a co-author of the 2014 AHA/ACCF Valve Disease Guidelines. He is the Executive Section Editor on Perioperative Transesophageal Echocardiography and Cardiovascular Education in Anesthesia and Analgesia, the official journal of the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists, and an associate Editor in Anesthesiology. He is the Chair of Training and Certification Committee of the American Society of Echocardiography and Board Director of the Society of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiologists. Dr. Skubas is the Chairman of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology at Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio. He lives in Cleveland with his wife and their three children.

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Guenther Laufer, MD (Co-Course Director) is currently the Director of the Department of Cardiac Surgery at the University of Vienna, a position that he has held since 2009. Dr. Laufer graduated from the Medical University of Vienna in 1982, where he also went on to complete his residency in surgery in 1989. From 1992 to 2000, he was the program director of the Heart and Heart-Lung Transplant Program at the University of Vienna before moving to Innsbruck to become a professor and the Chief of the Department of Cardiac Surgery at the University of Innsbruck (2000 - 2009). Dr. Laufer is also a member of several professional associations. He is a member of the Eurotransplant International Foundation (ETI), the Eurotransplant Thoracic Advisory Committee (ThAC) (which he has chaired since 2000), and he has been a board member of the Austrian Society for Surgery since 2002. Additionally, he served as the President of the Austrian Society of Surgery from 2006 to 2008, and is currently the chairperson of the Eurotransplant Assembly.

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Marek P. Ehrlich, MD is a native of Austria, and studied medicine at the University of Vienna. He completed his medical training as a resident in general surgery and cardiac surgery at the University Hospital in Vienna and also held a fellowship as a postdoctoral chief research fellow at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. Dr. Ehrlich is currently an Associate Professor of Cardiac Surgery, attending physician and Director of the Aortic as well as Atrial Fibrillation Program at the University of Vienna. His surgical portfolio involves a full spectrum of cardiac as well as vascular procedures including thoracoabdominal repair and minimal invasive aortic valve and ascending aortic replacements. He is also performing all sorts of ablation procedures for atrial fibrillation. His total number of surgical operations exceeds 2500 cases including electrophysiological interventions such as pacemaker und defibrillator implantations. Dr. Ehrlich’s research interests have included experimental studies concerning cerebral protection in an animal model. His current research interests include surface mapping in atrial fibrillation as well as new endovascular devices for aortic aneurysms. Moreover, Dr. Ehrlich has served as a faculty member in several international symposia, is a reviewer of the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Circulation and the Annals of Thoracic Surgery. Furthermore, he is the organizer of the “VISAR” symposium which takes place biannually in Vienna. Dr. Ehrlich is the author and coauthor of over 200 articles, abstracts and book chapters published in leading scientific journals.

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Patrick M. Grady, CCP is the Director of Perfusion Services at Cleveland Clinic, the #1 Heart Center in the United States for 24 years. He graduated from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Perfusion training was received throughout Pittsburgh at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Allegheny General Hospital, Mercy Hospital and Western Pennsylvania Hospital. He completed his pediatric perfusion training at Columbus Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. Upon graduation, Patrick was employed as a Staff Perfusionist at Hamot Medical Center in Erie Pennsylvania before joining the perfusion staff at Cleveland Clinic in 1998. He accepted his current position as Director of Perfusion Services in 2011. Patrick also oversees and is a clinical instructor for the Cleveland Clinic School of Cardiovascular Perfusion as well as a Presenter, Faculty Member and Wet Lab Coordinator for several organizations, including AmSECT, CREF and The Society of Thoracic Surgeons. He is part of an exclusive team working on research and development to advance cardiopulmonary bypass and techniques. Patrick has also authored or co-authored various research papers. He lives in Cleveland Ohio with his wife Shelly and children Kirstin, Kaitlin and Collin.

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Alfred Kocher, MD is a cardiac surgeon who covers the entire spectrum of adult cardiac surgery ranging from coronary artery bypass grafting to cardiac transplantation. He specializes in surgical treatment of heart valve disease with a focus on the ROSS procedure, Tirone David operation and novel heart valve devices. Dr. Kocher graduated from Vienna University School of Medicine and completed his surgical residency at the Medical University of Vienna. His fellowship training was at the General Hospital in Vienna with Prof. Wolner and at the Silesian University in Zabrze/Poland with Prof. Zembala. He spent 4 years as attending in cardiac surgery at the University of Innsbruck in Tyrol. Dr. Kocher’s research interests include cardiac transplantation, myocardial regeneration by the use of stem cells and clinical trials testing novel devices for heart valve repair and replacement. He has been to Stanford University in 1996 to study heterotopic cardiac transplantation in a rodent model and went to Columbia University in New York where he spent 2 ½ years on stem cell research. His publication on “improvement of myocardial function after infarction by application of CD34+ stem cells” has become a citation classic. Recent publications include a report on a multicenter trial with a rapid deployment aortic valve replacement system in the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery. He is a peer reviewer for multiple major surgical journals. Dr. Kocher’s research efforts have earned him several grants and prizes. In 2015, Dr. Kocher received the OMI-Award for his dedication as a long-time mentor who has donated his time, expertise and energy to OMI Observers. Dr. Kocher is currently on the faculty of the Department of Cardiac Surgery at the Medical University Vienna as Associate Professor of Surgery. He lives in Vienna with his wife Andrea and daughters Valentina and Sophia.

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Dominik Wiedemann, MD is a cardiac surgeon who specializes in surgical treatment of heart failure as well as minimally invasive cardiac surgery. Dr. Wiedemann grew up in the Tirol / Austria. He studied Medicine at Innsbruck Medical University with an elective rotation at the University of Oxford, England, UK. He graduated from Innsbruck Medical University in 2007. Consecutively he started his cardiac surgical residency at the University Clinic of Cardiac Surgery in Innsbruck. After 3 years of residency he moved to Vienna in order to complete his training there in 2013, when he became a board certified cardiac surgeon. Since that time he is attending cardiac surgeon at the Vienna General hospital and head of the Intermediate Care Ward. In 2015 he completed the "Venia docendi" in order to achieve his PD degree. After being Assistant Professor from 2013 to 2016, he became Associate Professor of surgery. 2017 Dr. Wiedemann achieved the additional board certification in Vascular surgery. Apart from his clinical career Dr. Wiedemann is also a rather active researcher focusing on clinical research (mechanical circulatory support, valve surgery, aneurism surgery, minimal invasive cardiac surgery) as well as on experimental research (ischemia reperfusion injury, neointimal hyperplasia and myocardial regeneration). Dr. Wiedemann lives in Vienna together with his partner Melissa.

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James J. Yun, MD, PhD is a cardiothoracic surgeon with clinical interests in adult cardiac surgery and cardiothoracic transplantation. Dr. Yun grew up in the northeastern United States in the state of Connecticut, and completed his undergraduate studies at Harvard College, followed by medical education at the Yale University School of Medicine. During his general surgery training at Yale New Haven and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, he also completed a PhD at the University of California, Los Angeles. His cardiothoracic training was at Stanford Hospital (residency) and Cleveland Clinic (advanced cardiothoracic fellowship). Before recently rejoining Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Yun most recently served on the faculty of Yale School of Medicine and was Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the West Haven VA Hospital in Connecticut. His other interests include immune and inflammatory responses in transplantation and during circulatory support, as well as resident training. He lives in Mayfield Heights, Ohio with his fiancée Dr. Marie Budev, a pulmonologist.

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CLEVELAND CLINIC SEMINAR in SALZBURG

"Cardiac Surgery"

November 11 – 17, 2018

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November 11, Sunday evening. I commenced my journey from Ostrava by train at 7.00am, transited through Vienna and finally to Salzburg train station estimated arrival at approximately 12.50 pm. I was pleasantly surprised about how multicultural Salzburg is. I took the bus no. 6 from the train station which was not difficult to find to Schloss Arenberg. We were greeted at reception and proceeded to complete check-in formalities. After a good rest, myself and my colleagues descended to the reception to be welcomed by the faculty and I was stunned to discover that I was the only female in the group. I was extremely nervous and shy but bonded right away with one of the fellows from Serbia. We had dinner which was quite remarkable might I add. I retired to my room to prepare for the events of the days yet to come.

November 12, Monday. Seminars started promptly at 8.00 after breakfast. We were welcomed by Dr. Yun, and did our pre-seminar test. As a first year resident in Cardiac Surgery, I must say that most of the questions threw me off balance but this was a catalyst to me being attentive during the seminar. Some of the questions, in my opinion, could have possibly had more than one correct answer. We started our first lecture with Dr. Yun on Contemporary Approach to coronary revascularization. I noticed that some contents on the printed copies of the slides handed out to us were not very legible. We took a coffee and descended to the restaurant for some delectable treats. We commenced the next session with CPB: Circuits and Solutions by Patrick Grady which gave us an insight and the technical skills of cardiac surgery from a perfusionist’s point of view. This was followed by a similar topic by Dr. Wiedemann but this time from a surgeon’s point of view. Personally, pairing these two topics simultaneously was strategically brilliant. Lunch was scheduled at 14.00 followed by an interactive lecture on Circulatory Physiology and Pharmacology - Clinical Perspectives by Dr. Skubas. I think it is pretty safe to say, that after this particular lecture, that I relocate my Guyton Physiology book, dust it off and get to revision upon arrival in the Czech Republic. Dr. Yun did a workshop on how to present a case and did a few case presentations as examples. It was clear that I had to make some degree of tweaks on my case presentation. Ms. Faschang closed the session off by doing a presentation on OMI/AAF. I utilized the gym on the first floor after today’s session after which I had dinner which was scheduled at 19.00.

November 13, Tuesday. Today was game day! (well at least for me). Half of us had to do our case presentations. I was extremely nervous as this would be my very first case presentation ever! After breakfast our lectures started promptly at 8.00 am with a topic on Methods of Myocardial Protection by Dr. Wiedemann followed by another on Perfusion Emergencies by Mr. Grady. There was the same
issue with some illegible slides of the handed hard copies of the presentation. Nonetheless the lectures were quite insightful. After the scheduled coffee break at 10.00, Dr. Yun gave two lectures on the topic pertaining to CABG: Pitfalls and complications and CABG for Patients with Severely Impaired LV Function, after which we had lunch followed by Case Presentations. Today’s Case Presentations were mediated by Dr. Wiedemann and Dr. Skubas. I was the 8th person in line. I have always been scared to face a crowd and recalled familiar episodes of stage-fright I experienced in the past. I was especially nervous because of my limited experience in the field of Cardiac Surgery. I calmed myself down and braved it up the podium. With a quiver in my voice and a flutter of butterflies in the pit of my stomach, I powered through my presentation and the discussions. I heard new suggestions on my case that the doctors in my department did not think of, which I will reply upon my return. I also heard and saw remarkable Case Presentations from the other fellows on rare cases I have not yet witnessed personally. After the session I took a walk with my newly made friend to the center and I must say that Salzburg is a beautiful city. I saw the birth place of Mozart which I had no idea of. I was impressed. We returned for dinner at the scheduled time.

**November 14, Wednesday.** Lectures started promptly at 8.00 am after breakfast as usual. Dr. Yun opened his first lecture on Surgery for Ischemic MR. Again, it was very useful for me with respect to my level of knowledge. Dr. Skubas followed suit with two very interactive lectures on Basic TEE for the CV surgeon and Practical Systolic and Diastolic Function but not without a coffee break in between :). Dr. Yun gave a lecture on Choices for Myocardial protection before lunch and after lunch we saw interactive video presentations on Minimally Invasive Valve surgery mediated by Dr. Yun. We had a decent amount of time before dinner so my friend and I went into the city center to buy some gifts. I am a bit of a chocoholic so I bought a few “Mozart” chocolates for myself and as gifts and returned just in time for dinner. A few of us went to the Irish pub for a few drinks after dinner. The night life is comparable to the city in which I reside.

**November 15, Thursday.** After breakfast the introductory lecture was held by Dr. Kocher on The Functional Anatomy of the Mitral Valve. Personally, I found this lecture very useful for my surgical practice. After which, as usual, Dr. Skubas gave a useful and interactive lecture on Intraoperative Echocardiographic Evaluation of the Heart. In our coffee break we took a group picture with the present Faculty. Dr. Laufer delivered a great seminar on Repair Techniques of the Mitral Valve. He made important points about clinical objectivity when evaluating the authenticity of clinical trials. Our next lecture may have been scheduled for tomorrow because we had a lecture by Dr. Ehrlich on Pathophysiology and Guidelines of Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation which was scheduled for tomorrow. Lunch was at the scheduled time after which the second half of us delivered, yet again, very riveting and educational case presentations. There was a chamber music concert after dinner in the Great Hall. I have never paid particular attention to chamber music but as a child, I remember my dad playing a few samples every morning. The concert was beautiful. This was my first seeing a live classical music concert and the instrumentalists were phenomenal. We went to the reception for drinks afterwards.

**November 16, Friday.** Today was the last day of our seminars. We had two lectures from Dr. Ehrlich one on the topic Energy sources and Standards of Surgical AFIB ablation and the other on Mitral valve replacement. There were also lectures on Outcome Evaluation: How to Measure results by Dr. Kocher and Cardiac surgery and the Health Care System by Dr. Laufer. We had the post-seminar test with the hope to have improved compared to the previous one, because I really learnt a lot from these experienced surgeons, perfusionists and anesthesiologists. We had our beautiful farewell reception and graduation dinner with was bitter-sweet because goodbyes are always sad but on the flip side, it has been a humbling experience for me to have encountered amazing people I hope to share life-long bonds and experiences with outside these seminars. In retrospect, I have no regrets about attending this seminar. This was my first ever seminar and it has been an awesome week academically and socially. If given a chance to this again, I would not hesitate. I have encountered some of the friendliest and highly intelligent people and I consider this a bold step in the right direction with respect to my surgical career. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the entire Faculty and stuff who made
this all possible, for their time and impactful knowledge in the field of Cardiac Surgery. Their efforts are very much appreciated. I am honored to have met and interacted with this batch of fellows who shared their invaluable experiences. As a 1st year resident, I have benefitted greatly from these seminars both from the Faculty and the attending fellows. Thank you once again. I would also like to extend my compliments to the chef who was very “James Bond” about having the recipe for those fabulous chocolate chip cookies :). I hope every single one of us has, in some way, found some sense of accomplishment in participating in these seminars. I know I have. I wish everyone a safe trip back home and a lot of success in their future endeavors.
Signing out of OMI/AAF diary (for now) ...

_Okaikor Okantey, MD (Ghana)_
November 11, Sunday evening. I arrived in Salzburg after an early 200km drive from Tartu to Tallinn and then flying through Frankfurt. On the plane from Frankurt to Salzburg, the person sitting next to me opened his European Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery, so I met a fellow Fellow already before reaching Austria. On the same plane was also a third Fellow. We shared a taxi to Schloss Arenberg. Having arrived early in the morning, I had time for a 20km run on the sunny banks of Salzach, the best burger (according to Google) in Salzburg and preparing my case presentation. In the evening we had a nice dinner and chat with other fellows.

November 12, Monday. The day started with a pre-seminar test. Afterwards we had a nice lecture about the Cleveland Clinic approach to coronary revascularization from Dr. Yun, followed by interesting lectures concerning perfusion and short-term circulatory support by Patrick Grady and Dominik Wiedemann. Then, it was time to discuss regional differences in training and approaches to cardiac surgery with other fellows in the lunch table. After lunch, we had a nice lecture by Dr. Nick Skubas about physiology and pharmacology – a nice reminder of preclinical studies, that we often tend to forget. Dr Yun gave us a presentation on how to present the cases and then had some interesting cases from his own practice, which caused a lot of discussion. After hearing some useful tips concerning case presentations, it was time to polish my own.

November 13, Tuesday. In the morning, the first session was dedicated to perfusion and myocardial protection by Dr. Dominic Wiedemann and Dr. Patrick Grady, followed by CABG lectures by Dr. Yun. After lunch, it was time for the first session by fellows. We had 15 interesting case presentations covering almost all aspects of cardiac surgery. After having our presentations, I had a nice run in the city. Then, with dinner behind us, it was time to celebrate successful presentations by having a nice evening pub crawling with international colleagues. Unfortunately, we didn’t find a place for karaoke.

November 14, Wednesday. This day was in control of Dr. Nick Skubas and Dr. James Yun covering transesophageal echo and ischemic mitral regurgitation in the first session and diastolic and systolic function and myocardial protection in the second. After lunch we had a session watching videos from the Cleveland Clinic and then it was time to discover Salzburg again.

November 15, Thursday. The bigger part of the Austrian faculty had arrived and the first part of the day was spent with Prof. Laufer, Prof. Kocher and Prof. Ehrlich discussing the mitral valve surgery and atrial fibrillation surgery. We also had a nice talk by Nick Skubas about echocardiography and the mitral valve. The second part of the day consisted of the rest of the case presentations by the fellows, which
were again very interesting and covered a wide variety of cardiac surgery, alongside with vascular and thoracic surgery. In the evening we had a nice chamber music concert and some wine.

**November 16, Friday.** We continued discussing atrial fibrillation with Prof. Ehrlich and had really interesting talks about the healthcare systems and research and results in cardiac surgery. After lunch we had the test again, the week showed it’s results already, with most of us having more confidence in answering the test questions and everybody improving the results compared to the pre-seminar test. In the evening we had a dinner with the faculty and a farewell ceremony, where the best case presentations and people with biggest improvement in their test results got awarded. All of us received a certificate of participation to be hung on our walls.

**November 17, Saturday.** After an early breakfast, it was time to head home to start using the tips and tricks learned in the seminars. For me, it was the third and last time taking part in the Cardiac Surgery seminars here in Salzburg and I have already started using some tips learned from here. I will continue to suggest this seminar to other residents of cardiac surgery back home in Estonia.

*Jaagup Truusalu, MD (Estonia)*