SEMINAR in SALZBURG

"Chronic Inflammatory Skin Diseases"

October 7 - 13, 2018
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SALZBURG SEMINAR CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASES

October 7 - 13, 2018

• 28 fellows from 19 different countries and regions
• 13 faculty members from Austria, the United States and Switzerland
• 26 lectures and 1 workshop given by faculty
• 28 interesting case presentations by fellows
• 5 excellent case presentations selected by faculty

Faculty Photo (L-R)
Nikolaus Romani, PhD; Georg Stingl, MD (Course Director); Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD, PhD; James Krueger, MD, PhD (Co-Course Director); Wolfgang Bauer, MD
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<td>08:00</td>
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<td><strong>Introductions</strong></td>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td>Biologics: Production, Mode of Action, Side Effects</td>
<td>Humoral Immunity</td>
<td>Auto-Immune Bullous Diseases</td>
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<td>08:30</td>
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<td>Pre-Seminar Test</td>
<td>Investigations 1</td>
<td>Wolfgang Bauer, MD</td>
<td>Georg Stingl, MD</td>
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<td>09:00</td>
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<td>Skin Immune System</td>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td>Vitiligo</td>
<td>Connective Tissue Diseases</td>
<td>Cutaneous Signs of HIV Infection</td>
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<td>Investigations 2</td>
<td>Georg Stingl, MD</td>
<td>Adrian Tanew, MD</td>
<td>Georg Stingl, MD</td>
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<td>Primary Immunodeficiencies</td>
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SALZBURG SEMINAR

"Chronic Inflammatory Skin Diseases"

October 7 – 13, 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.

Wolfgang Aulitzky, MD

Director, Open Medical Institute
American Austrian Foundation

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Adjunct Professor of Clinical Reproductive Medicine
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Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics
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Georg Stingl, MD (Course Director) is Professor emer. at the Department of Dermatology, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria. Dr. Stingl earned his MD from the University of Vienna Medical School in 1973. After his internship and residency training at the Department of Dermatology I of Vienna's University Medical School, he worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Dermatology Branch of the National Cancer Institute (1977-1978) and as a guest scientist at the Laboratory of Immunology, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (1985-1986) of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA. From 1978-1981 he served as Faculty member of the Department of Dermatology of Innsbruck's University Medical School and then moved to Vienna where he ultimately became Professor and Chairman of the Department of Dermatology at the Medical University. Dr. Stingl's major scientific accomplishments include the discovery of Langerhans cells as immunocytes and their role as targets of physicochemical agents, drugs and HIV; the first identification of the indigenous T cell population of rodent skin; the detection of anti-FcεR1 autoantibodies in the sera of patients with chronic urticaria; the use of genetically modified melanoma cells as vaccines for patients with far advanced disease; the induction of lytic molecules on dendritic cells after stimulation with TLR 7/8 ligands. In addition, he conducted many clinical trials investigating safety and efficacy of different immunomodulatory compounds. His work is documented in more than 250 original publications, 200 reviews and book chapters as well as four books. Over the years, Dr. Stingl has appeared as Guest Professor at several medical universities and as invited speaker at many symposia and conferences. He is member of the Board of several scientific societies and organisations, advisory panels, scientific journals and committees. During his career he has received several prestigious awards such as the William Montagna Award and the Stephen Rothman Award of the Society for Investigative Dermatology and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Skin Association. In 1999, he received the Honorary Doctorate from the Semmelweis Medical University in Budapest and the Silver Decoration of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria in Vienna. He is Honorary Member of the Society for Investigative Dermatology, the European Society for Dermatological Research and The Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology. He is also Member of the Austrian and the German Academy of Sciences as well as Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Medicine.

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James Krueger, MD, PhD (Co-Course Director) is a dermatologist with a focus on the study cutaneous immunity and inflammatory skin diseases. He completed undergraduate studies in biochemistry at Princeton University, then obtained a PhD in cellular biology and virology from the Rockefeller University and an MD degree from Cornell University Medical College. He subsequently completed a dermatology residency at The New York Hospital/Cornell University Medical College. He has been a faculty member at Rockefeller University for more than 25 years, where he is now Professor and Head of Laboratory, as well as CEO of the Rockefeller University Hospital. Dr. Krueger has worked extensively on the pathogenesis of psoriasis vulgaris over the last two decades and has mapped out many of the cytokine response pathways in this disease. This work has formed the basis for the successful development new cytokine-targeted therapeutics in psoriasis. His work is extensively published in more than 270 original articles and he is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. He is married to Dr. Emma Guttman, Professor of Dermatology at Mt. Sinai Hospital.

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Wolfgang Bauer, MD is a dermatologist from Vienna with a keen interest in the skin immune system. Dr. Bauer grew up in Germany and Austria, graduated from Vienna Medical University and completed his dermatology residency at the Division of Immunology, Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the Department of Dermatology of the Medical University of Vienna. His main research interests include cellular and molecular immunology of the skin with a focus on work relying on ex vivo isolated cell populations. In addition, he has been working on cutaneous lymphomas and myeloproliferative skin diseases. Recent publications include a microscopic evaluation of innate lymphoid cells in human skin as well as works on rare subtypes of cutaneous lymphomas. Dr. Bauer currently serves as a senior physician at the Department of Dermatology, he lives in Vienna with his wife Verena and their children Pauline and Levi.

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Kaan Boztug, MD, Assoc. Prof. is a board certified pediatrician, specialized in pediatric immunology and hemato-oncology. Dr. Boztug grew up in Germany and studied Medicine in Düsseldorf, Freiburg and London, followed by his graduate training with Iain Campbell at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla (CA, USA). He graduated from Hannover Medical and completed his residency in pediatrics and adolescent medicine at Hannover Medical School (Germany) and the Medical University of Vienna (Austria).

Prior to his first appointment as Principal Investigator at the CeMM Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in 2011, he did postgraduate research with Christoph Klein at Hannover Medical School (Germany).

Dr. Boztug’s research interests include inherited defects of the immune system (primary immunodeficiencies) and the hematopoietic system. His group works on understanding the molecular processes that control immune homeostasis, autoimmunity and autoinflammation using model diseases such as rare primary immunodeficiencies in order to enhance the molecular understanding of rare diseases to enable the development and use of tailored treatments for affected individuals. In his recent work he has identified different types of previously unknown primary immunodeficiencies, including neutrophil disorders such as G6PC3 and JAGN1 deficiency, IL10R and IL21 deficiency as Mendelian types of early-onset inflammatory bowel disease, deficiencies of PRKCD, NIK, DOCK2 and RASGRP1 causing combined immunodeficiency syndromes, and WDR1 mutations leading to aberrant lymphoid immunity.

In July 2018, Dr. Boztug’s group identified DGAT1 deficiency as cause of congenital diarrheal disorders, dissecting the key role of DGAT1 in lipid metabolism and bowel homeostasis. These studies have been published as first or senior authored scientific manuscripts in the New England Journal of Medicine (4x), Nature Genetics, Nature Immunology, Nature Communications, Gastroenterology, and others.

Since 2016, Dr. Kaan Boztug is the director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases (LBI-RUD), and Head of the CeRUD Vienna Center for Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases and joint director of the Jeffrey Modell Foundation Center for Immunodeficiencies at the Medical University of Vienna and St. Anna Children’s Hospital since 2014.

He also holds an appointment as Associate Professor at the Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at the Medical University of Vienna, and Adjunct Principal Investigator at CeMM.
Kaan Boztug, MD, Assoc. Prof.
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Director, CeRUD Vienna Center for Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases
Adjunct PI, CeMM Research Center for Molecular Medicine, Austrian Academy of Sciences
Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine
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Marie-Charlotte Brueggen, MD, PhD is a Dermatology resident and researcher with special interest in inflammatory skin diseases. Dr. Brueggen grew up in Basel, Switzerland and graduated from Geneva Medical School (Geneva, Switzerland). Following a research fellowship during Medical school, she joined Professor Georg Stingl’s group at the Department of Dermatology, Medical University of Vienna for a PhD in Immunology. In this work, she investigated T cell-mediated immune responses underlying the different forms of cutaneous graft-versus-host diseases. Dr. Brueggen has pursued her interest in inflammatory skin diseases and the roles of T cells as well as innate lymphoid cells play in their pathogenesis. Her work has been published in high-impact journals such as Blood the Journal of Investigative Dermatology, where she published her most recent paper on an in situ detection technique of innate lymphoid cells in human skin. Dr. Brueggen's research efforts have earned her various awards, such as the Heinrich Auspitz Award, Roche Young Investigator Award and ESDR/SID Collegiality Award and she currently holds several research grants (e.g. Vontobel Foundation, SwissLife grant). Dr. Brueggen is currently working in the Department of Dermatology of Zurich University Hospital, where she does her dermatology residency and pursues her research career with Prof. Dr. Lars French. She lives in Zurich.

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Patrick M. Brunner, MD, MSc was born in Klagenfurt, Austria. He earned his MD from the Medical University of Vienna, Austria, where he also completed his Dermatology residency. After obtaining his board certification in Dermatology and Venereology, he joined the Laboratory for Investigative Dermatology at The Rockefeller University, New York, as Instructor in Clinical Investigation under the mentorship of Dr. James G. Krueger and Dr. Emma Guttman. Since 2018, he is an associate professor at the Medical University of Vienna. His research focus is on therapeutic targets in inflammatory skin diseases (psoriasis, atopic dermatitis), and their contribution to systemic inflammation.

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Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD, PhD is the Kest and Clara Kest professor of dermatology and immunology and vice chair for research in the department of dermatology, as well as director of the Center for Excellence in Eczema, and the Laboratory of Inflammatory Skin Diseases at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York. She earned her M.D. from the Sackler Faculty of Medicine at the University of Tel-Aviv in Israel, and a Ph.D. from Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel. After her Israeli Board certification in dermatology, Dr. Guttman moved to the U.S. to pursue a postdoctoral fellowship at Rockefeller University and a second dermatology residency at Weill-Cornell Medicine, both in New York. Her major focus is atopic dermatitis (AD). She made paradigm-shifting discoveries on the immunologic basis of AD in humans, enriching the understanding of its pathophysiology and opening the door to new therapeutics. She has developed comprehensive molecular maps of AD, defining skin differentiation and immune-circuits characterizing this disease. She has established the reversibility of the AD phenotype and defined a series of biomarkers that are now accelerating testing of novel pathway-specific drugs for this disease. Recently she has extended her research interest to alopecia areata, in which her findings are also being translated into possible novel therapeutic targets. She co-founded the International Eczema Council, for which she functions as president-elect. She was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the American Dermatological Society, and received the Young Investigator Award from the American Academy of Dermatology in 2011.

Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD, PhD
Sol and Clara Kest Professor of Dermatology
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Director, Center of Excellence for Eczema
Head, Laboratory for Inflammatory Skin Diseases
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Elisabeth Riedl, MD, Assoc. Prof. is a board-certified dermatologist and dermatopathologist. After her medical training at the University of Vienna and a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, she received her Dermatology Board Certification in 2004. She continued her academic career in Vienna awarded as tenured Associate Professor of Dermatology in the same year. In 2008, she completed her Dermatopathology Board Certification. Since 2006, she served as the director of the outpatient clinic for chronic inflammatory skin diseases and since 2016 as the director of the Histopathology unit in the Department of Dermatology at the Medical University of Vienna. She has multiple experience in clinical research in phases I – IV studies in psoriasis, has been a supervisor for students on their PhD and MD thesis works, served as an invited lecturer in numerous national and international events and congresses and has published multiple papers in dermatological journals with a primary focus on psoriasis. Dr. Riedl recently joined Eli Lilly as Senior Medical Advisor for the International Business Unit with responsibility for Medical Affairs Work in Dermatology.

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Nikolaus Romani, PhD is an immunologist who studies antigen-presenting cells of the skin, in particular dendritic cells with a focus on Langerhans cells, the dendritic cell variant of the epidermis. He is interested in dissecting their roles in the generation of immunity and tolerance in cancer and infection models in vivo and the ultimate translation of this knowledge to human medicine. Dr. Romani obtained his Ph.D. in biology at the University of Innsbruck, Austria in 1983. He did his post-doctoral training at The Rockefeller University, New York, USA, in the lab of 2011 Nobel laureate Dr. Ralph Steinman, discoverer of dendritic cells. He became associate professor in 1990 and full professor in 2012. Dr. Romani and his colleague Dr. Gerold Schuler helped make Innsbruck one of the first "dendritic cell strongholds" outside the United States in the 1990ies. Currently, he is heading the Experimental Dermatology Unit at the Department of Dermatology at the Medical University of Innsbruck. His lab is working on immunization approaches that target defined subsets of skin dendritic cells by means of antibodies against antigen uptake receptors. The ultimate goal is to induce robust immunity, e.g. against cancer antigens, that will help to augment patients’ responses to modern immune checkpoint therapies of cancer. He is a co-editor of Handbook of Dendritic Cells, Biology, Diseases and Therapies and is a recipient of several awards. He initiated and promoted the development of a strong dendritic cell research group and the establishment of the Laboratory for Langerhans Cell Research under the guidance of Dr. Patrizia Stoltzner at the Innsbruck Dermatology Department.

Nikolaus Romani, PhD  
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      dermatologie.tirol-kliniken.at/page.cfm?vpath=research/laboratory-for-langerhans-cell-research
Simona Saluzzo, MD, PhD is a clinical scientist interested in skin and mucosal immunology. Dr. Saluzzo grew up in the city of Turin, Italy, where she completed her medical degrees at the Medical university of Turin. She then started a PhD in Vienna, at the department of infection biology and CeMM (Center of Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Science) where she focused on basic research in innate immunity at mucosal level. She performed part of her PhD at the LMB (Laboratory of Molecular Biology) in Cambridge, UK, where she deepened her understanding of innate mucosal immune responses, particularly studying Innate Lymphoid Cells (ILCs) and type 2 immune responses during infection. Her research efforts revealed new understanding on ILC2s-mediated immune changes in the lung at the time of birth and its consequences in the responses to lung infections. She received different Prizes, the most recent being the Clemens von Pirquet Prize of the Austrian Society of Allergology and Immunology (OeGAI). Dr. Saluzzo completed her PhD in July 2018 and she is currently a 3rd year resident at the department of Dermatology and Venereology of the Medical University of Vienna and is interested in the immunological changes at skin level during HIV, as well as in the establishment of the HIV reservoir at mucosal and skin tissue level. For this research topic she earned the Clinical Scientist Grant of the Austrian Academy of Dermatology and Venereology.

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Georg Stary, MD is a dermatologist who specializes in infectious and immunological disorders. Dr. Stary grew up in Vienna, Austria, and graduated from Medical University of Vienna. He completed his residency at the Vienna General Hospital / Medical University of Vienna and performed several research projects under Prof. Stingl's supervision. After his residency, Dr. Stary worked for 4-years as postdoctoral research fellow in Prof. von Andrian’s lab at Harvard Medical School, Boston. Dr. Stary's research interests include the cellular immune system of the skin and mucosa, host-pathogen interactions and clinical translation of his findings. Recent publications include a major paper on a new mucosal vaccine design in Science and the evaluation of cutaneous T cell responses in the skin of patients suffering from graft-versus-host disease in Blood and the Journal of Investigative Dermatology. He is a peer reviewer for multiple major journals in dermatology and immunology. Dr. Stary's research efforts have earned him grants from the Austrian Science Fund, Max-Kade Foundation and Austrian Central Bank. Dr. Stary is currently on the faculty of Medical University of Vienna as Associate Professor of Dermatology and examines dermatological patients as senior physician. He lives in Vienna with his wife Victoria and children Simon, David and Anna.

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Adrian Tanew, MD is a dermatologist who is heading the Phototherapy Unit and the Psoriasis Outpatient Clinic at the Department of Dermatology of the Medical University of Vienna, Austria. Dr. Tanew has graduated from the Medical University of Vienna and completed his dermatology residency at the 1. Department of Dermatology in Vienna where he specialized in photodermatology and psoriasis. After a two and a half years postdoctoral fellowship at the Physical Carcinogenesis Unit (Head: Dr. R. M. Tyrrell) of the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Dr. Tanew returned to the Department of Dermatology in Vienna where he became the head of the Phototherapy Unit and the vice head of the Division of Special and Environmental Dermatology. In 2001, Dr. Tanew became an associate professor of dermatology. Dr. Tanew's research interests include photodermatology, psoriasis, pigmentary disorders, hair diseases and sclerotic skin conditions. He has published numerous articles and is a peer reviewer for multiple major dermatologic journals.

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Stefan Woehrl, MD, MSc graduated with a Masters in Science in Biology/Genetics from the Universities of Salzburg and Vienna in 1996, and, in 1999, earned an additional Medical Degree from the University of Vienna. From 2000-2006 he did his residency in Dermatology and Venereology at Prof. Georg Stingl's Division of Immunology, Allergy and Infectious Diseases (DIAID) in the Department of Dermatology, Medical University of Vienna. In 2007, he became Assistant Professor ("Privatdozent") for Dermatology & Venereology at the DIAID and wrote his habilitation thesis on “Improvements in the clinical diagnosis of allergic diseases of the skin and the respiratory tract”. From 2009-2011 he was assistant, 2012 he became associate professor at the DIAID. In 2012, he left the medical university of Vienna to become a full member of the Floridsdorf Allergy Centre (FAZ), Central Europe’s biggest allergy outpatient clinic. 2013-17 he re-joined Prof. Stingl's DIAID as part-time senior consultant. Dr. Woehrl is member of several academic organizations and international societies. His research interest mainly lies on the diagnosis of the whole range of allergic diseases in clinical allergology including allergic contact dermatitis, hymenoptera venom allergy, component resolved allergy diagnosis of allergic rhinitis and asthma, and the clinical management of drug hypersensitivity.

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SALZBURG SEMINAR

"Chronic Inflammatory Skin Diseases"

October 7 – 13, 2018

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October 7, Sunday evening. We arrived at Munich airport in the afternoon and travelled to Salzburg by train. This is our first time to visit Salzburg from Taiwan. It was a long trip but the amazing scenery in Salzburg was stunning. After arriving at Schloss Arenberg, Prof. Stingl introduced the American Austrian Foundation to us and we had a great reception dinner with tasty food.

October 8, Monday. In the morning, Prof. Stingl gave a lecture about the skin immune system from the evolutionary perspective of human kind. I was impressed by why and how human immune cell has evolved unique genetic mechanisms that enable it to generate an almost unlimited number of antibody or TCR with large diversity. What a remarkable and economical way it is. The next lecture by Prof. Romani taught us the complex role of dendritic cell in an amazingly clear way. I also wondered how antigen present cell (APC) efficiently and accurately activate specific subpopulations of naive cell that have affinity for the antigen in lymph nodes. I also enjoyed another lecture delivered by Prof. Brueggen, that broadened my view of innate immunity. In the afternoon Prof. Krueger gave a wonderful talk to take a historical look at evolution of the pathogenesis of psoriasis and how psoriasis came to be what we know it as today. Overall, interactive teaching styles of these lecture promote an atmosphere of attention and participation.

October 9, Tuesday. In the morning, the lesson about laboratory investigations was a very nice presentation. The faculty explained the method of Langerhans cell and dendritic cells study. They also introduced the methods of western method, ELISA and flow cytometry in the applications of dermatologic study. In the afternoon, I was impressed by the case presentation from faculty to fellows. Professor Stingl presented an interesting case of eosinophilic cellulitis with Churg-Strauss syndrome. The patient had good response to anti-IL5 (mepolizumab). The other two cases, AIDS with severe psoriasis and Staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome (SSSS) were also very interesting. I gained a lot of knowledge today.

October 10, Wednesday. In the morning, Dr. Brunner introduced the production of biologics. It was a very interesting presentation. He also mentioned that the biosimilars will be used in the future. Dr. Woehrl introduced type I to VI allergic reaction in detail. He taught the common indoor and outdoor allergens and the exam methods of culprit allergen detection. In addition, he introduced the detailed
mechanisms of various common drug reactions. In the afternoon, we had good opportunity to understanding Salzburg in depth. We visited the Hellbrunn Castle and the Mirabell Castle. They are such beautiful places.

October 11, Thursday. This morning, Prof. Stingl gave his first interesting lecture about humoral immunity. He reminded me of the basic concept of development, activation, and functions of B cells. In the second lecture, I was deeply impressed about autoimmunity, focusing on lupus erythematosus, most famous issue in that field. After a coffee-break, the fellows started their case presentation. Actually, I was a little nervous. Fortunately, the friendly colleagues and Prof. Stingl gave me confidence for my presentation. I thought the course of case sharing was so helpful for my daily practice, and I learned a lot from every case and knowledge behind it. In the afternoon, Prof. Stary introduced the topics of lichenoid eruptions and cutaneous microbiome. The development of microbiome was really amazing, and many therapeutic potentials may emerge in the future, particularly atopic dermatitis. Before dinner, my colleagues and I went to the Makartsteg bridge with many millions of padlocks shining in the sun. During the concert, I was moved by the fantastic music and lovely singing. Really great thanks to Clara and Patrick. They gave me a wonderful night.

Hsien-Yi Chiu, MD (Taiwan, Province of China)
October 8, Monday. We shared a lovely breakfast and did our pre-seminar exam. I struggled with some questions, which is good, for I realized where I was stand and the importance of being here. As the seminar began, the complex immunology world was set before us by the experts. It was dissected into easy digestible parts, cell by cell, receptor by receptor. It’s captivating and astonishing. We are able to hear how some of the milestones in immunology were discovered, by the researchers themselves. In the evening, a multicultural group of girls and I did a little Salzburg sightseeing tour. The weather was warm and sunny and welcoming. The city is a fairytale, nothing like a walk by the river to wrap up the day.

October 9, Tuesday. We kicked off with laboratory investigations. “If you don’t understand the methodology you can’t interpret the results” said professor Bauer. “The evolution of mankind is dependent on investigation”... it was inspiring. Atopic dermatitis, alopecia areata, rosacea... The better comprehension of the immune system achieved yesterday was used in a practical way today. The lectures were focused on the new treatments and what the future holds. It’s exciting to witness how the limits are being broken as knowledge moves forward. Once again, the professors talked not just about what books and literature say, but mainly about the experiments and clinical trials they’ve participated and published. It’s stimulating to see where the knowledge comes from and that it requires hard work, and that sometimes a negative answer can point towards the right path. “Negative results should also be published” said Dr Emma Guttman. After the seminar the girls and I visited the Mirabell palace as we sang Do Re Mi. Post-dinner conversations at the reception just keep getting better and better.

October 10, Wednesday. Biologics: the highlights of tomorrow are the unpredictabilities of today. Interleukins, antibodies, inhibitors, receptors, agonists, T cell, B cell, antigens... it’s like these last days we’ve been given the pieces of the puzzle and now it’s all coming together. After the vitiligo, urticaria and drug reactions lectures the girls and I visited the Lake District. The turquoise clear water of the Wolfgang lake reflected the beautiful sunny sky that accompanied us to this Austrian dream. It was colourful, elegant and mesmerizing. Our expectations have been undoubtedly exceeded.
October 11, Thursday. Humoral immunity, connective tissue diseases and lichenoid eruptions. The antibody world is absolutely enchanting. Afterwards, the microbiome was discussed. The whole concept is mind blowing. I appreciate that during the last days there has been a constant element in the lectures: stories about how and why researchers have been awarded with Nobel prizes. I believe that our professors are setting us to stand over giants’ shoulders. Later, we had the chance to share our clinical cases. Rare diseases, atypical presentations of common disorders, and classical Dermatologic maladies were presented. The knowledge pearl was Dr. Stingl’s advise: challenge the diagnosis (and speak up when doing so). After a week that nourished our scientific mind, tonight our artistic mind and soul were cultivated. We were delighted by Clara Rueff and Patrick Leung’s chamber music. And so, the Chronic Inflammatory Diseases seminar has come to an end but the learning has not.

‘The journey is never over. The end of one journey is simply the start of another. You have to go back to the footsteps already taken, to go over again or add fresh ones alongside them. You have to start the journey anew. Always. The traveller sets out once more’. ~Jose Saramago

Karen Ferez, MD (Mexico)