

New links and insights from the CUA-EAU Exchange



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services at the Victoria General Hospital and the New Halifax Infirmary. Additionally, there are outpatient clinics with the whole service spectrum needed for diagnostic workup, non-surgical treatment and follow-up of patients with urological complaints.

Our two-day programme has shown that surgical oncology services are provided by the department. We have seen during the visit radical prostatectomies that use various technologies. One elegantly performed intervention was by Prof. Bell who convincingly showed that open radical prostatectomy remains a treatment option for localised carcinoma of the prostate despite the entry of new technologies.

We also observed a highly sophisticated laparoscopic technique used for a nephron-sparing management of a centrally located small renal tumour. The postoperative analgesic management was also interesting, using an epidural-like catheter introduced above the 11th rib of the flank incision. It became evident to us that functional urology is a central focus of the clinical and research activities of the department which offers full spectrum rehabilitation programme.

With regards to Prof. Gajewski's Functional Urology Research Group, we noted that he presented research projects and prospective studies of his group which are based on a structure that allows translational research with high efficacy. Our meeting with his group took place at the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron, which not only has an exceptional ambience but is also distinguished by its history (Photo 1).



Photo 1: Meeting with the faculty members at the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron, Department of Urology, The Dalhousie University, Halifax (from left: Dr. Dawn MacLellan, Dr. Roman Sosnowski, Dr. Peter Anderson, Dr. David Bell, Dr. Jerzy Gajewski, Dr. Rolf Ackermann, Dr. Peter Nyirády, Dr. Erdem Canda, Dr. Greg Baily, Dr. Sakher Tahaine).

Paediatric cases

Our visit to the paediatric urology division acquainted us with the highly sophisticated research project directed by Dr. MacLellan (Photo 2). This project examines the effects of stretch on the urothelium in vitro at the protein level, applying proteomic tools and looking at the impact by studying metabolomics. Using a small animal model with partial obstruction of the kidney and complete urinary obstruction, the project was expanded to an in vivo situation. Studies in paediatric cases are not only conceivable but already under consideration. We were deeply impressed by Dr. MacLellan's knowledge and involvement in this basic research. We were also briefed on the history of the university and shown the spectacular campus grounds (Photo 3).



Photo 2: Visiting the Division of Pediatric Urology, The Dalhousie University, Halifax guided by Dr. Dawn MacLellan (from left: Dr. Dawn MacLellan, Dr. Roman Sosnowski, Dr. Rolf Ackermann).



Photo 3: Prof. Gajewski, The Dalhousie University Campus, Halifax (from left: Dr. Erdem Canda, Dr. Roman Sosnowski, Dr. Jerzy Gajewski and Dr. Peter Nyirády).

To learn about the department's way of closely following the development of the manual surgical skills of residents and fellows, as structured and organised by Dr. Greg Baily was another highlight of our visit. We also actively participated in the annual testing of the surgical skills of the residents and the fellows (Photo 4). Each resident had to demonstrate practical skills by conducting five different surgical manoeuvres such as closure of a bowel injury using a fresh bowel segment, re-anastomosis of a transected ureter or closure of a vascular injury under persisting outflow etc. Each step had to be completed within eight minutes under supervision of staff members. It was not only a challenge to the residents and fellows but also for us.

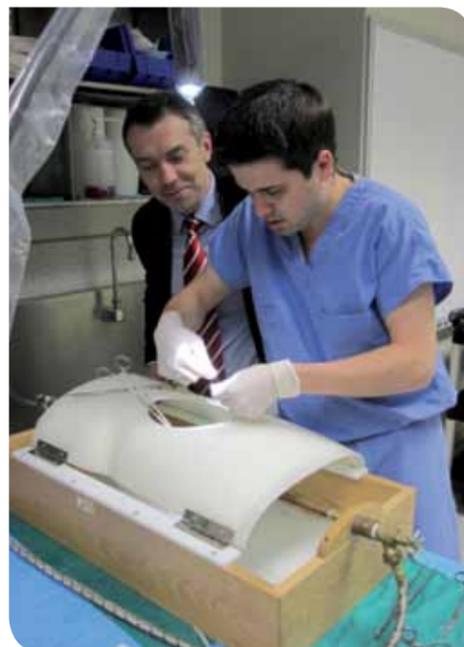


Photo 4: Annual testing of residents' surgical skills, Department of Urology, The Dalhousie University, Halifax. A resident attempts to close a vascular injury under persisting outflow on a model in the lab.

"We noted that a lot of emphasis is given to the collaboration between professional scientists and clinicians, allowing efficient teamwork"



Photo 5: City tour in Montreal with Prof. Luc Valiquette and colleagues from the Department of Urology, The University of Montreal (from left: Dr. Peter Nyirády, Dr. Roman Sosnowski, Dr. Diego Barrieras, Dr. Jean-Paul Perreault, Dr. Luc Valiquette and Dr. Rolf Ackermann).

During one of the department's research meetings, we had the chance to talk about our institutions respective achievements, our countries and the EAU as one of the biggest urological associations. Following academic tradition, a faculty dinner was arranged for us. And despite our tight schedule we have seen historical landmarks such as the Old Fisherman's Village in Lunenburg. In other words, our academic excursion could not start any better. We are more than thankful to our hosts for providing us with an exceptional tour and a memorable welcome.

New impressions in Montreal

Leaving Halifax for Montreal meant that we did not only say goodbye to wonderful hosts and excellent institutions but we have also transitioned from an English-speaking region into another culture and environment- the Franco-Canadian life style. A group of young ladies welcomed us at our hotel in Montreal, and who, as CUA representatives, also efficiently organised our visit and were responsible for making our Canadian tour so efficient.

When Prof. Luc Valiquette, former SIU Secretary General and Surgical Director of the University of Montréal and on behalf of Prof. Fred Saad (Photo 5), chairman of the Department of Urology, joined us at the enjoyable lunch, we already had had a sightseeing tour in downtown Montreal. Having the city sightseeing tour at the start of our visit was probably well-thought by our hosts considering the hectic programme that the Department of Urology of the University of Montreal had prepared for us.



Photo 6: Prof. Luc Valiquette, Department of Urology, Hopital St Luc, The University of Montreal (from left: Dr. Peter Nyirády, Dr. Rolf Ackermann, Dr. Roman Sosnowski, Dr. Luc Valiquette and Dr. Erdem Canda)

A tour of the facilities of the department and a glimpse at the enormous new clinical centre still under construction gave us a good impression of the importance of this institution, which is also equipped with modern technology (Photo 6). Since one of the tour members is highly interested in robotic surgery, the experience in robotic surgery presented by Dr. Zorn was very valuable.

The department's prestigious reputation is obviously due to its competent and comprehensive services plus the very efficient teamwork among its members. With regards to the structure of the services, we noted the separation of the outpatient from the clinical department, and its impact on the weekly timetable of staff physicians. Providing outpatient services in between surgery does not seem to be possible in this system.

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Photo 7: Visiting the Research Department with Prof. Anne-Marie MesMasson, The University of Montreal (from left: Dr. Roman Sosnowski, Dr. Erdem Canda, Dr. Anne-Marie MesMasson, Dr. Rolf Ackermann, Dr. Peter Nyirády and Dr. Jean-Baptiste Latouf).

The Canadian Urologic Association (CUA) and the European Association of Urology (EAU) has created the Academic Exchange Programme with the goal to offer promising young urologists the chance to link up with their colleagues in Canada and Europe and with representatives of leading institutions.

The programme started last year with the visit of three young urologists and a senior prominent Canadian academic urologist: Ben Chew (Vancouver), Anthony J. Bella (Ottawa), Armando Lorenzo (Toronto), and Jerzy Gajewski (Halifax) who visited academic centres in Malmö (SE), Sheffield (UK), Barcelona (ES), Milan (IT) and Vienna (AT).

This year three European urologists visited six academic institutions in Canada. In a series of reports to appear in this newsletter, the participants will share their observations and experience. Reports were written by A. Erdem Canda, associate professor of the Department of Urology at Ankara Atatürk Training and Research Hospital in Turkey; Peter Nyirády associate professor and deputy head of the Department of Urology at Semmelweis University Budapest, Hungary; Roman Sosnowski associate professor of the Uro-oncology Department at Oncology Centre in Warsaw, Poland; and Prof. Rolf Ackermann, former chief and professor emeritus of the Urology Department at the Heinrich-Heine-University in Düsseldorf.

What a start in Halifax!

The European group met on June 3 in Halifax to visit the Department of Urology at The Dalhousie University which was founded in 1818 by the Governor General Lord Dalhousie. The main university in Nova Scotia province, it consists of 11 faculties providing academic education to almost 20,000 students. During the campus tour we were briefed on the history of the Dalhousie University and learned about its academic legacy.

Prof. Jerzy Gajewski organised our programme. The department, chaired by Prof. David Bell, runs clinical

Amsterdam to host 1st World Congress on Pelvic Pain

Consensus meeting for pain specialists

By Joel Vega

For the first time three international leading organisations active in the treatment and management of pelvic pain are collaborating to organise the first multi-disciplinary meeting on pelvic pain issues from May 30 to June 1 next year in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.



Dr. Bert Messelink

"This is a unique and historical collaboration between three leading organisations- Pain of UroGenital Origin (PUGO), the International Pelvic Pain Society (IPPS) and ConvergencesPP (ConPP). These groups have joined forces to closely examine the prospects and challenges in the management of pelvic pain, and that makes this meeting particularly exciting," said Dr. Bert Messelink, urologist and 2013 PUGO chairman.

Messelink said the three-day conference will present a comprehensive scientific programme that will cover all aspects of pelvic pain, from anatomy, clinical aspects to treatment options, guidelines and prospects in research. Gathering experts from various disciplines, and with the support of caregivers and patients groups, the meeting not only aims to inform healthcare professionals but also serve as a consensus meeting.

"Since the organising groups include various disciplines, this event becomes all the more relevant. We expect attendance by gynaecologists, urologists, surgeons, general practitioners and pain doctors as well as physiotherapists and sexologists," added Messelink.

Six plenary sessions will be presented with experts tackling a range of topics. Updates, state-of-the-art

lectures and symposia will look into issues such as organ dysfunctions and pain, societal impact of pelvic pain, myofascial pain, the role of patient organisations, psychological/sexological aspects of pelvic pain, interdisciplinary and multispecialty investigations and management in specialised Pelvic Pain Centres, and the future of pelvic pain management, to name a few.

Organisers are also inviting pain specialists to actively contribute to the meeting sending in abstracts. "With this initiative we aim to contribute to further raising the awareness and increase knowledge about pelvic pain. Moreover, we hope that researchers and specialists will share the insights from their studies and clinical work regarding this debilitating condition," added Messelink.

For further details and information on registration, hotel arrangements and other conference activities, visit the congress website at www.pelvicpain-meeting.com

Dates to remember

- 1 September 2012**
Start abstract submission
- 15 January 2013**
Deadline abstract submission
- 15 February 2013**
Outcome abstract selection available
- 1 March 2013**
Preregistration deadline
- 20 May 2013**
Registration closed



1ST WORLD CONGRESS ON Pelvic Pain 2013

The first World Congress on Pelvic Pain is a truly multidisciplinary congress, of relevance for all caregivers working in the field of pelvic pain. Pain of UroGenital Origin (PUGO), the International Pelvic Pain Society (IPPS) and ConvergencesPP (ConPP) have joined forces to organise this unique meeting. Aside from sharing high quality information, the organisers hope, and trust, that this initiative will contribute to raising further awareness and increase knowledge about this debilitating condition.

» **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**
DEADLINE: 15 JANUARY 2013

30 MAY - 1 JUNE 2013

**BEURS VAN BERLAGE
AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS**

We invite everyone involved in treating patients suffering from pelvic pain to join us for this meeting! Please visit the website for information about the scientific programme and to submit your abstract.

Make sure to book your hotel room well in advance
Rooms in different hotel categories and within easy reach
of the congress can be reserved online through our website



WWW.PELVICPAIN-MEETING.COM

Canadian Tour...continued from previous page

A visit to the research and oncological multidisciplinary outpatient facilities at the Hôpital Notre Dame also impressed us in many ways. We were introduced to sophisticated projects headed by Prof. Anne-Marie MesMasson, which aim to identify new biomarkers for prostate and kidney cancer by applying tissue micro arrays. Again we noted that a lot of emphasis is given to the collaboration between professional scientists and clinicians, allowing efficient teamwork. The close link between the clinical oncologists with a well-structured clinical research leads to an effective translation of research findings (Photo 7).

Being a sub-specialty, paediatric urology services are offered outside the adult urology facilities at the Hôpital Sainte-Justine which is located near the impressive main campus of the university. The department's exciting and very special children-oriented new interior is fascinating (Photo 8). A short visit to the operative facilities and observing the doctors at work gave us a good impression.

New links and insights

Our team also actively participated in clinical case discussions presented by the fellows and residents of the department (Photo 9). At the end of the session, each of us gave a brief presentation about the EAU, its structure, goals, achievements and collaboration with our national urological associations.



Photo 9: Participating in the residents' clinical case presentations, Department of Urology, The University of Montreal.



Photo 8: Visiting the main campus of The University of Montreal with Dr. Barrieras (from left: Dr. Peter Nyirady, Dr. Diego Barrieras and Dr. Roman Sosnowski).

Thanks to the structured programme of our visit as organised by the Department of Urology of the University of Montreal, through Dr. Diego Barrieras, we visited the clinical and outpatient facilities, and the units for translational as well as clinical research, giving us useful insights into the department's delivery of healthcare services.

Invited by Dr. Barrieras, we also enjoyed the wonderful show of Montreal's world famous Cirque Du Soleil. At the end of our visit, we also met residents and staff members for dinner at a typical restaurant in Montreal's old town, and that evening we learned that 15 of the 17 participants came from different countries. Indeed it was a 'global evening'!

As we left our hosts and expressed our heart-felt thanks for the exceptional programme that they had carefully prepared, we were all convinced that we have not only benefitted from new connections but have also gained valuable impressions about the urological and academic life in Canada.

Milan
15-19 March 2013

28th Annual EAU Congress

EAU Best Paper Awards 2013

For the two Best Papers published in Urological Literature on Clinical and Fundamental Research. These papers have to be prepared, published or accepted for publication between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012.

EAU Hans Marberger Award 2013

For the Best Paper published on Minimally Invasive Surgery. This paper has to be prepared, published or accepted for publication between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012.

Will you be an EAU Award Winner in Milan?

Deadline: 15 November 2012

For more information, rules and regulations:
www.eaumilan2013/the-congress/awards

Apply
now and
win!

EAU Crystal Matula Award 2013

For a young promising urologist under the age of 40 who has the potential to become one of the future leaders in academic European urology. National Societies can nominate a candidate for this award or eligible candidates can apply by contacting their national urological society directly.

EAU Prostate Cancer Research Award 2013

For the Best Paper on Clinical or Experimental Prostate Cancer Research. The paper must have been accepted for publication in a high-ranking international journal between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012.



European
Association
of Urology