

EPOS-SLAOTI 2022 TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP



Pandemic

On the 11th of December 2019, we received an e-mail, congratulating us for having been accepted for the EPOS-SLAOTI 2020 Travelling Fellowship. We were very honored and started with the paperwork but an unexpected event happened: the COVID-19 pandemic. On 17th of March 2020, with a second e-mail, we learned that the fellowship programme was cancelled until further notice.

In June 2022, we were happy to receive another e-mail, informing us that the fellowship programme was rescheduled and asking if we were available for the end of September. We arranged everything and prepared for a trip to Brazil, Chili and Argentina. We departed from Europe on the 18th of September.

Brazil

After having a rest at the Hotel, our fellowship journey in South America started on Monday the 19th of September, which was also a national orthopedics day in Brazil. After having a typical Brazilian breakfast with pao de queijo, we were picked up by Dr. Nej Botter Montenegro and we went to Universidade de Sao Paulo Instituto de Ortopedia de Traumatologia on a huge medical premises. Dr. Botter took us for a tour at the hospital, showing the microsurgery and sports medicine labs, orthotics unit and clinics. At the clinics, we were able to see and discuss various patients with diseases such as Perthes, fibular hemimelia and hip dislocation.



That afternoon, with Dr. Patricia Moreno, we went to see the charity row programme that she had developed for disabled children as a recreational activity. We took a small boat trip, while kids were having fun with rowing and the capibaras were having a sun bath.



The next day, we met Prof. Alex Lourenco and visited the University Federal Sao Paulo. We attended their academic meeting and gave our presentations. After the meeting, we experienced the traditional Brazilian coffee and visited the football museum. We had lunch in Lange Park Modern Museum restaurant and visited the Ottobock prosthetics center with the orthopedic team. At night, we relaxed with caipirinhas.



On the third day, we visited Hospital Santa Casa de Sao Paulo. We were hosted by Prof. Gilberto Weisberg, Prof. Miguel Akkari, Prof. Patricia Fucs, Dr. Ellen Goiano and Dr. Paulo Costa. First, we attended the morning round and then we saw patients at the clinic. We discussed a new plate developed by the team for Imhauser osteotomy for SCFE and we had lunch at the food market.



In the afternoon, we went to the AACD hospital with Dr. Paulo Kanaji. We took a tour at this specialized neuro-ortho hospital and joined the scientific meeting to discuss patients with osteogenesis imperfecta and Ganz osteotomy. At night, we had a lovely dinner at Prof. Akkari's home.

Next day, we joined the osteogenesis imperfecta clinic at Santa Casa. We had the opportunity to give our presentations afterwards. In the afternoon, we went to the AACD hospital to join proximal femoral surgery with Dr. Kanaji and had a beer after surgery to relax.



At our last day in Brazil, we went to Albert Einstein Hospital, known as the best Hospital in Latin America. We had a gait analysis session, discussing the

idiopathic toe walking tool and cerebral palsy cases. Afterwards, we had a big lunch in a meet restaurant.



Chili

On the 24th of September we arrived in Valdivia, Chili. We had a warm welcome at Dr. Matias Sepulveda and Dr. Stephania Birrer's home. After having barbeque, we rested at our Hotel.



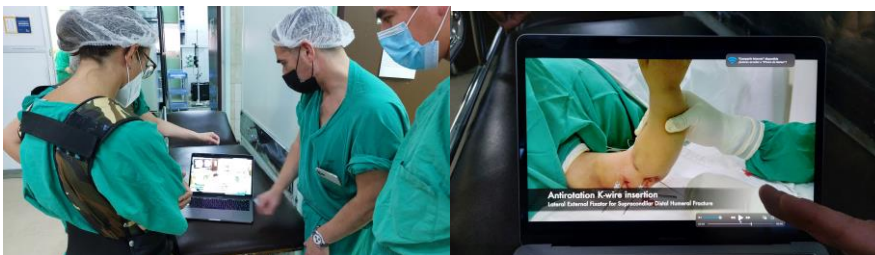
On Sunday, we had a helicopter tour around the city by Dr. Claudio and then we went to his lake house to spend the rest of the day.



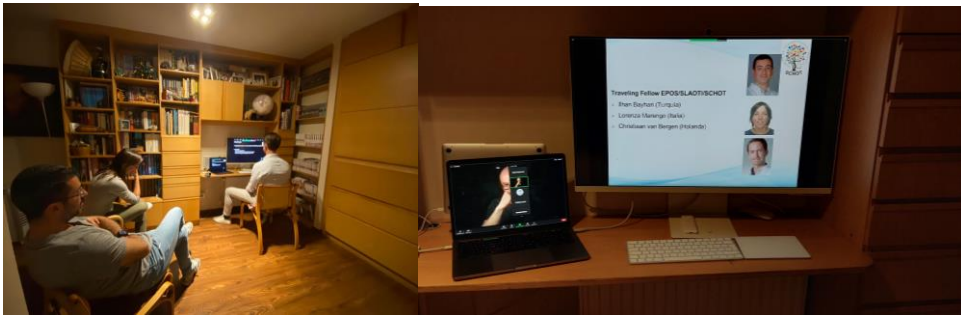
On Monday, we went to the Hospital, attended the morning clinics and saw patients with monostotic dysostosis, brachymetatarsia with mini fixator, Gollop-Wolfgang syndrome, and others. In the afternoon, we joined surgery; a minimal invasive SHORDT procedure for fibula hemimelia. Afterwards, we had dinner at a local brewery.



On Tuesday, we joined surgeries of patients with a phalangeal fracture and clinodactylie. Dr. Sepulveda presented us his experiences with elastic intramedullary nailing and external fixators for supracondylar humerus fractures. At night we had a dinner at a lovely Italian restaurant.



On Wednesday morning, we had a clinic and saw patients with DDH and Perthes disease. In the afternoon, we joined the clubfoot clinic and at night we attended the online Chili pediatric orthopedic meeting and presented our work.



Argentina

On the 29th of September, we flew to Cordoba. We were picked up by Dr. Javier Masquijo and Dr. Victoria Allende and we had a lovely dinner at our Hotel with the pediatric orthopedic team, including Drs. Andrés Ferreyra, Diego Tourn and Florencia Turazza.

The next day, we attended surgeries with Dr. Masquijo for patellar instability cases at Sanatorio Allende. Between the surgeries, we had interesting discussions about tarsal coalitions and osteochondritis dissecans. In the afternoon, we took a city tour with Dr. Allende and at night went to a percussion concert and had dinner at the student area.



On Saturday, we attended an Academic session and gave our presentations. At night we had a great Asado experience at Dr. Allende's home where Dr. Masquijo had prepared a wine tasting of the different regions of Argentinian wine.



The next day, we flew to Buenos Aires and were picked up by Dr. Carolina Halliburton. We had a city tour and visited the Sanatorio and Park. In the evening, we tasted empanadas with Dr. Miguel Paz.

On Monday, Dr. Miguel Puigdevall took us to Fleni Hospital and we attended surgical thumb correction, stryker gastroc lengthening and proximal femoral derotation osteotomy surgeries in the prone position. In the evening, we had a meeting where difficult cases were discussed. At night, we had dinner in an Italian restaurant in Puerto Madero.



On Tuesday, we had a full academic day at the Italian Hospital, hosted by Drs. Puigdevall and Halliburton, where we also presented our research. In the evening, we met with the Orthopediatrics team to have dinner.

On Wednesday, we joined the Faculty of the SAOTI meeting to visit Boca Juniors Stadium and Caminito area, hosted by Dr. Paz. Here, we had the chance to catch up with the teams we met in Cordoba and Sao Paulo. In the evening, we attended the Faculty reception at the historic Barrolo Building.



The SAOTI meeting started on the 6th of October. We enjoyed interesting sessions about the pediatric hip, knee OCD, clubfoot and neuro-orthopedics. In the evening, we watched a traditional tango show with all meeting attendants.

On the second day of the meeting, we attended upper limb pathology presentations and took part in the pediatric fractures discussion panel.



In conclusion, the EPOS-SLAOTI 2022 Travelling Fellowship was an extraordinary rollercoaster, where we had the exclusive opportunity to meet very friendly and skilled local hosts, exchange pediatric orthopedic knowledge, discuss science, and taste the local culture in a very interesting part of the world. We feel privileged to have had this once-in-a-lifetime chance to broaden our views on pediatric orthopedics and make new friends for a long career to follow. We are extremely grateful and would like to specifically thank EPOS, SLAOTI, all local hosts, Ms. Sanni Hiltunen and Dr. Ana Presedo, our colleagues and our families.