

ENTOG EXCHANGE 2021- GREECE

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Introduction

- ▶ I am working as a Registrar in Obstetrics and gynecology at the Rotunda hospital
- ▶ I am in my 4th year of training on the general specialist division (NCHD; not on formal training scheme)
- ▶ I was selected as a representative trainee for Ireland to participate in ENTOG exchange 2021 in Greece along with Ruairi Floyd by JOGS.

My fellow exchange trainees

- ▶ There were 4 exchange trainees in Patras:
 - ▶ Myself from Ireland
 - ▶ Beata from Poland
 - ▶ Istvan from Hungary
 - ▶ Erdem from Turkey
- ▶ All my fellow exchange trainees are in their 5th year of training.
 - ▶ Majority of the European countries have the specialist training programme for 5 years.



My Host City - Patras

- ▶ Patras is the third largest city of Greece and is found in the northern Peloponnese. It is a city with an important scientific centre with a field of excellence in technological education.
- ▶ People were very polite, helpful and friendly. The people in Patras love the outdoors, the beach and food.
- ▶ The restaurants are open until late night/early morning everyday. Late night sitting and wild drinking parties were routine in Patras/Athens.



My Host Hospital - Patras University Hospital



School of Medicine

University of Patras



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΠΑΤΡΩΝ
UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

- ▶ My exchange hosting hospital is the University Hospital of Patras which serve a large number of patients in Western Greece.
- ▶ They have around 3500 deliveries per year.
 - ▶ The c- section rate: 52%
 - ▶ Operative vaginal deliveries: 8% - mainly the vacuum and <2% of forceps deliveries.
- ▶ It is also a tertiary level gynecology referral hospital.



Prof Michail George - Lead Gyneoncologist



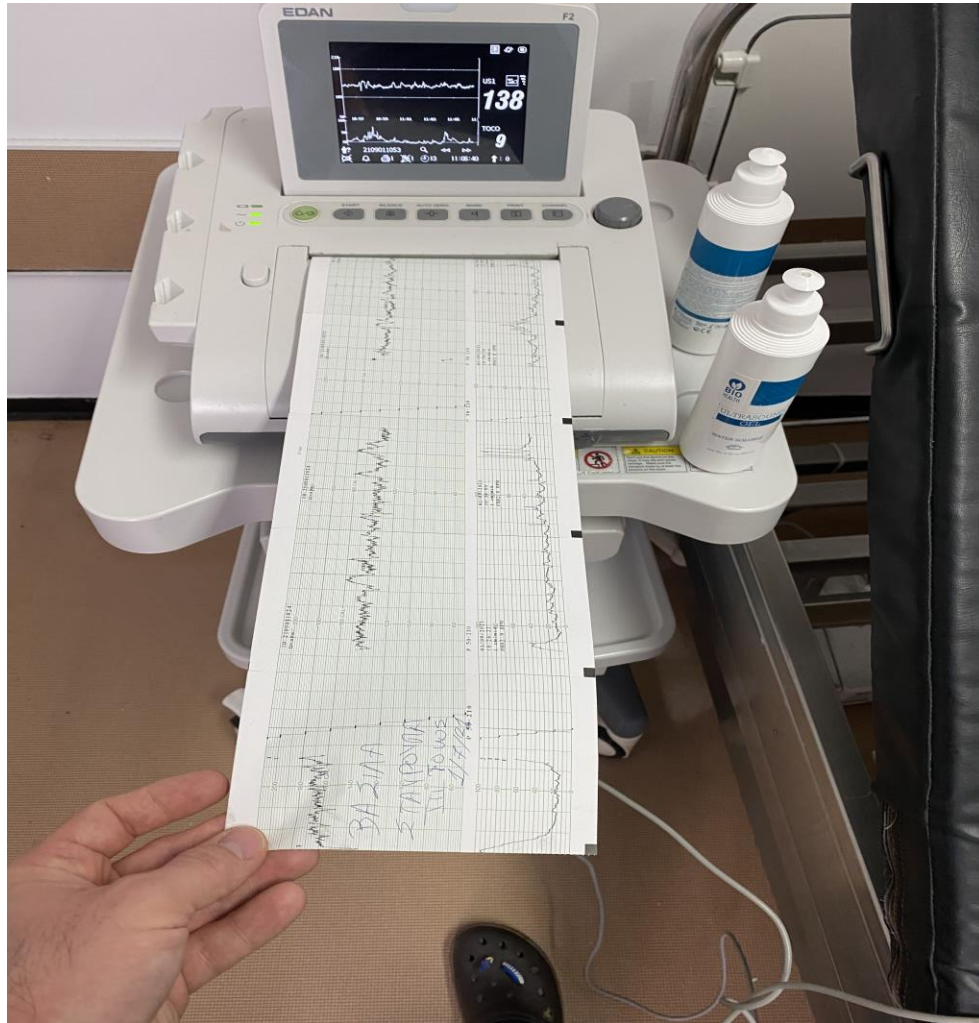
MICHAIL GEORGE, Assistant Professor



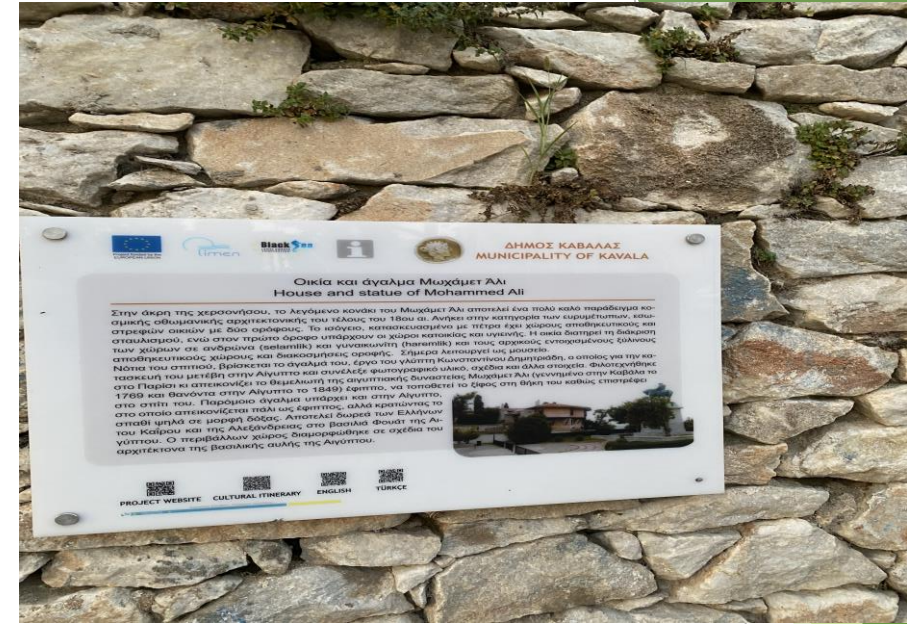
Sector: Division of Paediatrics & Obstetrics –
Gynaecology

Clinic/Laboratory: Department of Obstetrics -
Gynecology

Labour Ward



- ▶ My hosts; Fay and Christos (Final-year specialist trainees) sent us lots of emails about all the information related to travel, reaching Patras, our hotel stay and also picked us everyday from hotel to the hospital.
- ▶ The entire stay was well organised with activities related to learning and also exploring the city and culture.
- ▶ The Professor and all the trainees were helpful and eager to teach. We attended gynaecology theatre sessions in the morning and LW/teaching in the afternoon during our 3-day stay in Patras.



PATRAS CITY



The ENTOG 2021 Exchange team Patras with Prof Adonakis George

Training in Greece

- ▶ After the medical school training and internship, doctors enter into a specialist training program after competitive entrance exams.
- ▶ The exams ,teaching and learning is mostly in Greek. The vast majority of patients and staff members also communicate in Greek.
- ▶ The specialist training is for 5 years in major public hospitals; 3 years of core training in one hospital/university and 2 years of elective training in the same or different university.
- ▶ Exit exam after 5 years in the form of a written and OSCE exam.
- ▶ Private practice is a common in Greece.

ENTOG Scientific Meeting

- ▶ We travelled to Athens for the ENTOG Scientific/ Council Meeting on Thursday.
- ▶ We met all the exchange trainees from 35 different countries in Europe and exchanged our ideas and views and made new friendships.
- ▶ A half day formal training on the laparoscopy simulators for entry and suture knot tying and gynae ultrasound was also included on this day. The organisers were very helpful and patient to teach and answer all our queries during the same.
- ▶ On the last program of the day, we had a final council meeting with all the ENTOG exchange trainees and representatives present for same.



ENTOG Scientific Meeting - Simulation workshop



Gynae Ultrasound



Laparoscopy suturing

ENTOG Council Meeting and Gala Dinner

- ▶ We witnessed the Council meeting and the election process for different roles in the ENTOG committee and was a treat when Mei Yee was elected as the General Secretary for ENTOG exchange committee for the next two years.
- ▶ The huge amount of work, time and dedication of the team behind the successful exchange program is really commendable.
- ▶ Our exchange program came to an end with a nice Gala dinner in a beautiful rooftop hotel with breathtaking views of Acropolis - a memory to be cherished forever.



Gala Dinner with The Team






Acropolis - Athens

My thoughts and reflection of the experience

- ▶ Going on this exchange program gave me an opportunity to observe and compare the health care systems in Greece, work place environment and working condition for trainees.
- ▶ It was motivating to observe strong trainee involvement in teaching and research activities. It was also the perfect opportunity to enhance my international experience and become acquainted with the trainees in Greece and other ENTOG countries.
- ▶ It also helped in comparing the health system in different countries as we exchanged our training and health system differences, get equipped with necessary skills and proper knowledge needed for new environment and to prepare ourself with new situations. It also gave me a glimpse of future career choices, wonderful memories and friendships to last a long time.
- ▶ This exchange was an opportunity to experience new culture and learn about the rich cultural history inherent to Greece while gaining clinical experience in gynaecology.
- ▶ International medical exchange programs have previously been recognized as a beneficial tool to provide well rounded training and knowledge about the global health system.
- ▶ This exchange is a promising program that provides extremely enriching and rewarding experience. I definitely recommend this program to my colleagues!

- ▶ This report cannot be concluded without mentioning the unstinted support and involvement of our ENTOG representative Mei Yee; who took the extra effort to make our exchange program lot easier.
 - ▶ She connected with ENTOG exchange committee very early on; who helped us with the arrangements for stay and host city. She was very helpful in each and every query I had and answered all my questions in a timely manner.



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- ▶ I thank JOGS and the selection committee for providing a wonderful opportunity to Participate in the ENTOG Exchange 2021.
 - ▶ This helped to explore the healthcare systems in different cultural and social settings and make new connections with ENTOG Trainees.
 - ▶ I look forward to be involved further with ENTOG.