



2011 FESSH TRAINING AWARD INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Dr. Laura Petrella, MD, PhD

Visit: Hand and Upper Extremity Service, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery of the MGH, Boston -USA, under Prof. J. Jupiter for a period of 5 weeks.

OBJECTIVES:

- To gain further expertise in complex trauma repair.
- To establish and consolidate professional relationship with surgeons of International caliber working in this high specialized Hand Surgery Unit.
- To establish further scientific and clinical research collaboration.
- To learn about the infrastructure of the American healthcare system and taking example for my future practice from one of the most renowned American Hospitals.

The MGH: It is the oldest and largest hospital in the New England and it makes part of the top five Hospitals in USA. Its tradition of excellence started in 1811, continues today with sophisticated diagnostic and therapeutic care in all the principal areas of medicine and surgery. The MGH is the original and largest teaching Hospital of the Harvard Medical School .

The MGH Hand service : There are 5 consultants providing a service that treats all disorders of hand, wrist and elbow including microsurgery, with a 24h Emergency Room. Patients come from all parts of the USA and abroad. This allows comprehensive exposure to all aspects of Hand Surgery and, together with the tradition and the evident vocation in teaching, ensures an excellent training Program for residents and fellows, so the Department is regularly visited by surgeons from different parts of the world.

Working activity: A typical work day starts at 6.30 am with the morning conference consisting in lectures about particular aspects of anatomy and treatment of hand diseases given by Fellows or Attendings, or discussion of clinical cases.

At 7.30 am consultations and surgery start and they usually go on till the late afternoon.

Once a month there is the Journal Club, with discussion of interesting articles to which all Residents, Fellows and Attendings of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery participate.



The staff: I worked mostly with Prof. Jupiter, but I had the possibility to observe also the other consultants when involved in operations particularly interesting for me. They are world known specialists and their knowledge and experience taught me many invaluable lessons to bring in my own practice.

Professor J. Jupiter, AO Professor and Professor of the Harvard Medical School is a remarkable individual and physician, excellent in decision making, clever surgeon and great teacher. It was a true honor to work with him.

All the staff was attentive and appreciative of the difficulties faced by International visitors and made efforts to make us feel comfortable and ensure maximal educational exposure.

I experienced warm and generous hospitality which I will remember throughout my life.

Personal experience: From a personal point of view it was an excellent experience too. I was able to sample the American way of life and culture.

Boston is a wonderful place to stay, I had almost all the weekends free and I spent them to visit the city, but there are so many attractions that it would be impossible to see all of them in so short time! It was Christmas time and the atmosphere was magic, with wonderful decorations of streets, squares and shops, Christmas trees and songs everywhere. I was invited to participate to all Christmas parties that the staff organized in the hospital lounge and outside. This warm and kind welcome made also less hard for me to support the distance from my family, so unusual for me in Christmas time.

I also had the privilege to be guest at the Prof. Jupiter's beautiful house and to be invited at dinner in a famous seafood restaurant to eat the delicious Boston lobsters together with the other International fellows.

Conclusions: This fellowship was a great personal and professional experience, well timed with my surgical career progression and very useful to my future practice. It gave me more knowledge and confidence in treating complex trauma and other challenges in the field of hand surgery .

I would strongly encourage young colleagues in training to apply for the FESSH award in order to pursue such programs aimed at the refinement of their skills.

Acknowledgments:

1. The FESSH travelling Award Committee who agreed me the financial support for this fellowship.
2. Prof. Jupiter for his help and teachings.
3. All the staff of the MGH for their friendly and kind hospitality..
4. My Italian and French Attendings who have constantly encouraged and guided me in my learning needs.
5. My family for their wholehearted support.



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Hand and Upper Extremity Service
Yawky Center, Suite 2100
55 Fruit Street
Boston, MA 02114
Tel: 617 726-5100
Fax: 617 724-8532
Email: jjupiter1@partners.org



Jesse B. Jupiter, M.D., M.A.
*Hansjörg Wyss/AO Professor
Harvard Medical School*

January 10, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

Dr. Laura Petrella has successfully completed a visiting fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Hand and Upper Extremity Service, December 1, 2011 – January 9, 2012.

She attended all of our conferences, outpatient clinics, and observed many surgical procedures.

Her fund of knowledge is excellent and everyone enjoyed her visit.

Sincerely Yours,

Jesse B. Jupiter, MD
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Massachusetts General Hospital
Hansjörg Wyss / AO Professor
Harvard Medical School