

FESSH Travel Award – Illustrated Report

Fellowship in Milan, May 2025

Host: Dr Pierluigi Tos – Ospedale Gaetano Pini & CTO, Milan

Fellowship Experience

In May 2025, I had the opportunity to complete a fellowship in Milan under the supervision of Dr Pierluigi Tos at Ospedale San Giuseppe, thanks to the FESSH Travel Award.

From the very beginning, I was warmly welcomed by the entire surgical team. In particular, I would like to extend my gratitude to Dr Odella and Dr Cecconato, whose kindness, teaching spirit, and surgical expertise made this experience both enriching and inspiring.

During my stay, I was exposed to a wide range of complex cases in hand surgery and reconstructive microsurgery. As both Dr Tos and Dr Cecconato are plastic surgeons, I had the unique chance to observe flap surgeries I had not seen before — notably, a reverse sural artery flap, which was completely new to me.

I also witnessed:

- Challenging revision osteosynthesis procedures following failed forearm fracture fixations,
- Congenital malformations such as a duplicated thumb with extra phalanx, and
- Several delicate microsurgical reconstructions.

Each case offered a valuable learning opportunity, reinforcing my theoretical knowledge and expanding my practical understanding.



Cultural & Personal Reflection

Beyond the operating theatre, spending time in Milan was a true pleasure. The city's artistic and cultural richness, from Da Vinci's legacy to the vibrant Brera district, added a deeper layer to my overall experience. The "Dolce Vita" attitude of the Italians — their love for beauty, style, and good food — was contagious and made me feel at home.

I returned with not only valuable surgical insights but also a deep appreciation for the balance between medical excellence and cultural vitality that defines Italy and its people.

Final Thoughts

This fellowship offered me much more than observation. It gave me a renewed motivation, surgical inspiration, and lifelong professional connections. I am deeply thankful to the FESSH committee for making this experience possible and to the entire team in Milan for embracing me so openly.

Vasiliki Batsou
FESSH Travel Award Recipient, 2025





Centro Specialistico Ortopedico Traumatologico
Gaetano Pini-CTO

Sistema Socio Sanitario



Regione
Lombardia
ASST Gaetano Pini



ASST – Gaetano Pini – CTO, MILAN, ITALY
Hand Surgery and Reconstructive Microsurgery Department

Chair Dr. Pr. Pierluigi Tos MD, PhD

FESSH Hand Surgery Training Centre



This to certify that dr

Vasiliki Batsou

completed the

“FESSH - FELLOWSHIP IN HAND SURGERY”

from 1 to 30 May 2025

Milan, 30 May 2025

Chief of the Department

Pierluigi Tos