

## **MY 2018 INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR TRIP**

I started the trip by attending the Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons in Boston. The event was great in every way. Being a scholar enabled me to participate of very interesting activities, such as the opening ceremony, meetings of the International Relations Committee, the receptions of the event and the Governors' dinner, which was fantastic. In addition, I presented two lectures: one on the challenges and solutions for surgery in Brazil and Latin America and the other one, on the trauma situation in Brazil, which also allowed me to learn and exchange information with my colleagues. I had the opportunity to attend several sessions related to general surgery and trauma that always bring newness in how to treat patients. I was able to catch up with American and foreign friends as well as to meet new colleagues from around the world.

After the Clinical Congress, my week at the Massachusetts General Hospital began. It was extremely profitable. I was very well received by Drs. George Velmahos, Haytham Kaafarani and the entire trauma surgery team. I followed the sign-out rounds and participated in the case discussions in the morning, and every day I went to the operating room to follow up on various procedures with the colleagues from the team, including cases of robotic surgery performed by Dr. Velmahos. I had the opportunity to observe the multidisciplinary aspect of patient care and to meet with the nurse practitioners of the service to be able to learn how they work in the service, since in Brazil we do not have these professionals in this function.

I attended several academic meetings and the grand rounds where the whole department meets and where Dr. Kaafarani presented his project regarding a new tool to estimate the risks for complication and mortality of surgical patients, which surely will help surgeons from all over the world have more accurate numbers to present whenever needed. I was also able to get to know the research projects in progress in the division through an excellent presentation of the research fellows.

I had the honor of meeting Professor Keith Lillemoe, who welcomed me for a pleasant conversation during a dinner together with colleagues Drs. Kaafarani and Velmahos.

I took the opportunity to visit some colleagues involved in Global Surgery at Harvard Medical School that I met during the Clinical Congress and we were able to discuss some points of great common interest, especially how we can contribute to improving the quality of surgical care offered to patients in Latin America. As a result, we will try to develop a program related to trauma and violence in the region.

The next stage of the visit was at the Virginia Commonwealth University, VCU, where I was received by Drs. Michael Aboutanos, Paula Ferrada and Edgar Rodas as well as all of their staff in a very cordial manner. They surely provided me with an intense and profitable learning environment. I was able to visit the modern operating rooms of the University during my visit.

I was also received by Dr Vigneshwar Kasirajan, Chief of the Department of Surgery, and as a result of a very productive conversation, we were able to start a project to develop a partnership between his Department and the Surgery Department under my responsibility at the University of Santo Amaro in Brazil, to promote research and exchange of students, residents, fellows and attendings.

I also interacted with a number of people involved in the VCU trauma registry (pediatric and adult trauma), to learn about its importance, how to use the data obtained, and how to promote improvements from constructively collected information. I also discussed the trauma registry of the Pan-American trauma society and spent time with Dr. Edgar Rodas, 2015 International Guest Scholar, Director of Global Surgery at VCU.

I had a very interesting meeting with Mr. Timothy Erskine of the Virginia Department of Health about the functioning of the trauma and critical care system at the state level, having been informed about the activation and functioning of the system from the

prehospital phase, as well as how they apply the concepts of primary, secondary and tertiary trauma centers in the United States.

Another important moment was the productive visit to the university's simulation center, a place of excellence for teaching students and residents, which allowed me not only to know the training projects at different levels of learning but also to plan future courses that will allow students, residents and surgeons of Brazil to come and carry out their training in VCU.

On the last day of the visit, I had the honor of presenting a conference to trauma and emergency medicine colleagues to discuss the trauma situation in Brazil. After the presentation, we had a productive discussion about violence not only in my home country but also in South America.

I continued my trip and headed to the Shock Trauma in Baltimore where I was received by Dr. Thomas Scalea and the members of Team C, which I was assigned to follow on all service activities. I had the opportunity to attend shifts at the Trauma Resuscitation Unit, where I was very impressed by the well-implemented concept of teamwork. I was able to follow the team's assistance activities, which included an early meeting, the visit to the ward and intensive care units, and the surgical activities. The work of the Pink Scrubs is really fabulous. I had also the chance to meet colleagues from Italy, China and Israel who were also there to improve their knowledge on trauma surgery and the way American services operate.

During one of the evenings while in in Baltimore, I received a visit from Dr. Rao Ivatury and his lovely wife and we went to dine and talk for a few hours. I had the honor and privilege of meeting with other big names of Shock Trauma like Dr. Sharon Henry and Dr. David Feliciano who welcomed me in a very warm way and shared their knowledge with me.

On the last evening, Drs. Scalea and Henry cordially invited me to dinner and with this I was able to strengthen the ties of friendship with such great professionals and to elaborate projects of future collaborations between our services.

Finally, I arrived at my last destination, the Ryder Trauma Center at the University of Miami, where I took the opportunity to deepen my knowledge on nutritional support for surgical patients. I had the opportunity to visit patients, discuss cases and follow-up the outpatient care of surgical patients with complex nutritional problems, especially regarding the management of those who use domiciliary total parenteral nutrition, a practice that is rarely used in Brazil. During these activities I was with Dr Dante Yeh, who has great mastery on the subject and kindly shared with me as much as possible of his knowledge. In addition, I visited the emergency room and participated in discussions with other trauma colleagues such as Drs. Tanya Zakrison, Daniel Pust, Antonio Marttos, Rishi Rattan and Nicholas Namias, who received me in a very caring and kind manner. I had the privilege to present a talk during the Trauma Division Rounds and to discuss the trauma situation in Brazil and other countries in Latin America, specially the situation of the trauma registries and data collection.

After this very useful and valuable visit trip provided by the American College of Surgeons, exchange projects for students and residents among the universities visited and the University I work for – UNISA (Santo Amaro University) for training and professional improvement will be developed. Moreover, scientific research projects will be implemented with the services of the MGH, VCU and Miami, in both a prospective and multicentric way, to evaluate aspects related to adverse events in surgery, nutritional support of critical patients and implementation of a trauma registry system at the hospital in Brazil linked to UNISA, with the US colleagues' support. Surely this trip was the greatest international experience I have had since the end of my training and I will be eternally grateful to the American College of Surgeons for giving me this opportunity. I will continue to honor the College and work to always strive for excellence in caring for our patients. Thank you.