

## E. NOI FELLOWSHIP REPORT – SHORT-TERM BENEFITS

NOI Fellowship Report concerning the evaluation of the short-term benefits must be sent no later than 30 days after the end of the fellowship to [grant@noisk.sk](mailto:grant@noisk.sk). Specifically, indicate the scope of work during the fellowship in the report and highlight the achievement of goals together with the possibility of knowledge transfer for the Oncology in Slovakia. Attach the relevant photo documentation to the fellowship report.

NOI Grant with its assigned number must be acknowledged in all publications or presentations related to the fellowship results, and a citation of the publication or information about the conferences needs to be sent to [grant@noisk.sk](mailto:grant@noisk.sk).

### **Name and titles of NOI Fellow:**

MUDr. Anna Ballová

### **Contact Address of the Home Institution:**

Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, NUDCH, Limbová 1, Bratislava

### **NOI Fellowship Title and Objectives:**

Innovation of standard procedures in collection, molecular diagnostics, and storage of biological material of CNS tumors in pediatric patients

### **NOI Fellowship Dates:**

1.9.2021- 29.10.2021

### **Contact Address of the Host Institution:**

Prinses Máxima Centrum, Utrecht, Netherlands

### **Overview of NOI Fellowship experience:**

Thanks to the NOI grant, it was possible for me to complete a two-month internship at the Princess Máxima Centre (PMC), Utrecht, Netherlands. PMC is a new, modern hospital that was established in 2018 with the vision of centralizing pediatric oncology patients from all over the Netherlands. By centralizing health care, it is possible to ensure optimal treatment for all children. 600 patients are hospitalized here annually. Complex treatment of these patients is ensured by the cooperation of doctors from the Wilhelmina Children's Hospital (WKZ). In the PMC building, there are also centralized diagnostic laboratories. A very important part of the hospital is the research center, with more than 30 research groups. The close cooperation between the clinic, diagnostics and research is an irreplaceable advantage at the Princess Máxima Centre.

During my two-month internship, I visited 3 departments - the leukemia and lymphoma department (led by Dr. Natasji Dors), the solid tumor department (led by Dr. Annemarie Piek) and neuro-oncology department (led by Lisethe Meijer), where I got to know the daily work of doctors and nurses. I participated in everyday rounds with doctors, once a week in a grand round, where patients were consulted with all oncologists, in educational seminars organized for residents and fellows in training. Tumor Boards were held twice a week in each department. There were discussed all the new patients, patients after follow-ups and those who have completed their treatment. In addition to oncologists, radiologists, pathologists, neurologists, surgeons, neurosurgeons, and doctors from radiotherapy department regularly participated in TB. Dutch colleagues were willing to hold all the mentioned seminars and meetings in English.

Another part of my internship was one-day observations in outpatient clinic or other departments. I visited the radiotherapy department (at the University Medical Center), the anesthesiology department with an emphasis on pain treatment, then I spent a day with a radiologist, a palliative care doctor, an endocrinologist, I observed procedures (lumbar punctures, bone marrow aspiration and bone biopsy), assisted in pulmonary metastasectomy in a patient with osteosarcoma and I also observed neuro-oncological surgeries. I spent several days in the multidisciplinary outpatient clinic, at the day care clinic and at the LATER outpatient clinic

for former patients who have been cured of cancer. Here, they focus on late effects of a treatment. For three days, I had meetings with PhD students who were part of neuro-oncology research groups, and in the last week of my internship, I completed a course in diagnostic laboratories together with fellows in training.

**Possible Knowledge Transfer for the Improvements in Oncology in Slovakia:**

I consider the main benefit of the internship to be:

- Acquaintance with work on the wards and in the outpatient part of the hospital
- Observation of close multidisciplinary cooperation of doctors from individual specialties and excellent cooperation of doctors within 2 neighboring hospitals (PMC and WKZ)
- Acquired contacts with world leaders in pediatric oncology
- The possibility of an internship at PMC for other colleagues as well
- Obtaining guidelines for supportive treatment of pediatric oncology patients
- Getting inspiration for new procedures, projects and research within pediatric oncology that can be implemented in our department

**Place and Date** Bratislava 29.11.2021

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**Signature**