

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. 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 conference needs to be sent to grant@noisk.sk.

Name and titles of NOI Fellow:

Michaela Sojáková, MD., PhD.

Contact Address of the Home Institution:

National Cancer Institute, 2nd Oncology Clinic LF UK and NCI, Klenova 1, Bratislava 831 10

NOI Fellowship Title and Objectives:

Gaining new experience in the diagnosis and treatment of soft tissue tumors and their subsequent application in clinical practice and management of our patients at the National Oncology Institute.

NOI Fellowship Dates: 9.1.2024 – 6.2.2024

Contact Address of the Host Institution:

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre – Gastric and mixed Tumor Service, 1275 York Avenue New York NY 10065

Overview of NOI Fellowship experience:

During the mentioned period, I was assigned to surgical procedures under the guidance of Professor Singer and his colleagues from the Gastric and Mixed Tumor (GMT) Service team - Dr. Aimee Craig and Dr. Ned Bartlett. Surgical procedures were aimed at radical extirpation of tumors of mesenchymal origin in the limbs or retroperitoneum, GISTs, as well as malignant melanomas and Merkel cell carcinoma.

In addition to individual surgical procedures, I participated in clinical-ambulatory days at the MSKCC Outpatient Clinic, during which I had the opportunity to collaborate with Professor Singer, to participate in the evaluation of diagnostic and therapeutic plans, as well as subsequent postoperative short-term and long-term checks as part of the "follow-up" monitoring of the patients. I also had the opportunity to work with excellent clinical oncologists focusing on the treatment of soft tissue sarcomas – Dr. Sandra D'Angelo – one of the world experts for sarcomas treatment and main investigator of many sarcoma clinical trials and her younger colleague - Dr. Lauren Banks, with whom I participated in the diagnostic-therapeutic process and multidisciplinary meetings. I was also able to see in practice several patients included in phase I and II clinical studies.

Regularly, once a week, I participated via zoom in surgical sessions connected with a lecture on various onco-surgical topics and subsequent multidisciplinary meetings focused on radiological-surgical pre-operative evaluation of patients and also clinical-pathological consultations of definitive histological findings. I had the opportunity to listen to the presentation of the staff of Professor Singer's research laboratory focused on the interim results of the effectiveness of new therapeutic goals - e.g. CDK 4/6, CDK2 and CDK 2/4/6 inhibitors in dedifferentiated liposarcoma and familiarization with current results of experimental tests of selected proteins involved in cell proliferation, cell death and apoptosis on liposarcoma cell lines.



Michaela Sojáková, MD., PhD. and Prof. Samuel Singer, MD., FACS

Possible Knowledge Transfer for the Improvements in Oncology in Slovakia:

Based on the activities described above, during my internship abroad, carried out thanks to the NOI grant, I had the exceptional opportunity to closely observe the way work is organized in a highly specialized workplace focused on the treatment of sarcomas and GISTs. In addition to the opportunity to improve my professional knowledge, I also consider the experience of excellent multidisciplinary cooperation of individual teams – surgical, oncological, radiodiagnostic and histopathological – to be very beneficial, ensuring complex medical care for patients with soft tissue tumors, which I would like to implement at least in part into our clinical practice. Despite the fact that access to the latest phase I and II clinical studies with new therapeutic combinations including immunotherapy and other new treatment modalities for individual subtypes of soft tissue sarcomas is very difficult to implement in our conditions, it nevertheless represents possibilities for the treatment of these patients in the future and therefore I would like to participate in such phase II, III clinical studies in the future and thus expand the treatment options for our patients.

Place and Date:

Bratislava, March 6th, 2024

Signature