

## **IBRA Scholarship Program B report**



### **DEPT. OF CRANIO-MAXILLOFACIAL AND FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY**

### **CLINIC DIRECTOR: PROF. DR. DR. DR. ROBERT SADER**



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## *Introduction*

One year and a half ago, I was googling fellowship programs for my last year of my training's period. I looked for 'maxillofacial surgery scholarship' and suddenly came to me the IBRA website. It took just few seconds to see the *education* tab and then I discovered the IBRA scholarship programs. In that moment, I decided to apply for the scholarship and after a few months, I got an e-mail telling me that I was awarded with the great opportunity to visit the Department of Professor Sader. From that moment, I started to want to visit the Klinik of maxillofacial surgery of Frankfurt.

## *First the team, then my colleagues*

From 8<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March I have been in the Cranio-Maxillofacial and Facial Plastic surgery department of Universitäts Klinikum Frankfurt. Since the first moment, the team led by Prof. Sader gave me a warm welcome, beginning my first day in the surgical room and ending my period in the same place. After a couple of days working with the maxillofacial team, we started to share a lot of time together in the hospital, both the consultants and the residents. I must say I was impressed how hard workers they are. And I also have to say how friendly they are after work, when they invited me to a German dinner or when I took them to taste a Spanish one. Smiling and working is something that happened at the same time.

## *The scheduled program*

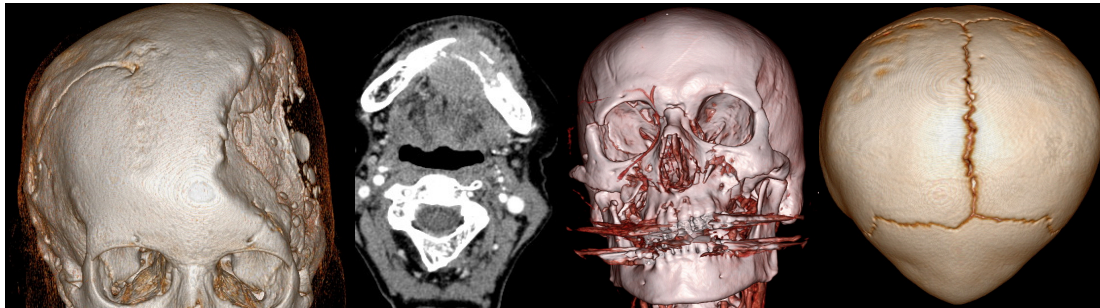
Our day started at 7:30 am, when all the staff met to talk about the ward patients, the stationary patients and the program in the surgical theater. After half an hour discussion I went to the surgical area where the operations took place. Every day an average number of two to three operation rooms were used by the maxillofacial department, so the amount of proceeds per week was big enough to see a lot of interesting pathologies. The surgery program was filled with two to three or three to four procedures every day, unless the days for craniofacial anomalies or tumor surgeries were the intervention lasted until the afternoon. Afterwards, I used to go back to the clinic to see what was going to be operated the next day and learn about the patient history and the imaging studies carried on them. Sometimes I accompanied the consultants to talk with the anesthesiologists about the patients they shared in the intensive care unit or also I went several times to the emergency area to see how the residents worked or even help them when needed. My regular scheduled time in the hospital was comprised between 7.30 and 16-17h in the afternoon, so I can assure that residents and consultants work harder to have everything ready for the next day.

## *The pathologies*

The cover spectrum of the different disorders treated in the clinic of maxillofacial surgery in Frankfurt spread into craniofacial anomalies and orthognathic surgery, tumor surgery, reconstructive surgery, TMJ arthroplasty, facial trauma and oral

surgery. The variety of pathology is quite similar to my hospital, although we do not operate craniostynosis as they do nor we are not used to operate so many TMJ's, but the amount of patients for trauma, orthognathic surgery, tumor and cleft palate are hugely numerous than what we have.

During my stage in the clinic I could scrub almost every day, participating actively in the surgeries such as helping them with the patient preparation or the closure of the wounds. I had the chance of helping in complex midface fractures, several oral cancers and neck dissections, and cranial defects both congenital and acquired, as you can see in the pictures below corresponding from left to right to a cranial defect after craniotomy in a child, oral floor cancer affecting the mandible, le fort II/III fracture and craniostynosis (trigonocephaly).



I also learnt about the other face of the maxillofacial trauma, that is to say, the removal of osteosynthesis material that we do not normally do in Spain (unless the patient complains) but in Germany is very common its regular removal.

### *Conclusions*

After my scholarship I realize about three things that I have gained thanks to visiting this clinic. One is about living abroad, the second is about learning new procedures and the third about why should someone apply for this scholarship.

First of all, Frankfurt is very enjoyable city, with beautiful places to go, where all the people that I have met have been very kind with me and where the weather is good enough even for colleagues from the Mediterranean area such as me.

Secondly, visiting this hospital has brought to me the opportunity to see and assist in a lot of procedures, due to the huge number of surgeries they have every day. Some of these procedures were new for me (such as craniostynosis, or cleft lip palate repair in a single step), and others that we do in my hospital here take place much more often because the department of Prof. Sader is a center of reference for oral cancer and craniofacial abnormalities.

Finally, if I had to summarize all the reasons that I could say to apply for this scholarship the words I would use should be 'friends' and 'passion'. Why? Because visiting the Maxillofacial department of Frankfurt one realizes about the IBRA philosophy of learning and discovering: it is the best way to learn being a *friend* of the bone and it increases the feeling of surgery until it becomes a *passion*.

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