

IBRA Scholarship “B” at Banner University Medical Center, Phoenix, US
Scholarship date: 01/04/2017-30/04/2017
Fellowship Director: Scott Edwards, MD

It was an honour to receive the IBRA fellowship as a 3rd year resident from Germany. I was delighted by the opportunity to travel to the US and learn from Scott Edwards, Program Director for the Hand, Upper Extremity – and Microsurgical Fellowship at Banner University Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Banner University Medical Center is one of Arizona’s largest medical centers and is classified as a Level I trauma center with more than 2,800 Level I trauma patients a year.

The Department for Hand and Upper Extremity Surgery covers the full spectrum of acute hand trauma and pathology, joint arthroplasty as well as congenital deformities, free tissue transfer und reconstructive surgery.



With the week divided into clinic and surgery, there was ample opportunity to witness and get involved in many different cases together with Dr. Edwards and his team. It was highly interesting to see the similarities and differences between surgical approaches and treatment compared to Europe.

Amongst the many interesting cases to see was the usage of forearm spanning plates as additional fixation for severely comminuted wrist fractures in contrast to external fixation.

With a higher incidence rate of gun shots and stabbings it was fascinating to watch total brachial plexus reconstructions after stabbing injuries.

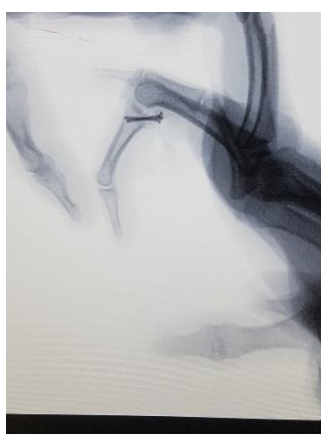
Fractures of the elbow often lead to posttraumatic unsatisfying dysfunction by contracture and there are many ways described and commonly used to release the contracture. Therefore it was exciting to learn of a new technical approach, the OFER (osteotomy facilitated elbow

release), which was created and first described by my program director and which I was allowed to present at an internal meeting.



Further remarkable procedures to learn from were the treatment and surgery of scaphoid non-unions using the scaphoid plate and autologous cancellous bone graft from the ipsilateral distal radius.

I was happy to witness the reconstruction of a destroyed interphalangeal joint by a comminuted intra articular fracture. The reconstruction was undertaken by a hemiarthroplasty with replacement of the articular surface through harvesting a bone graft from the ipsilateral hamate.



Furthermore, I enjoyed spending time at Banner Desert Childrens Hospital with Meredith Workmann. The cases included syndactyly releases and reconstruction in various stages.

At the Arizona Hand Center I also had the opportunity to see a variety of surgeries and cases in clinic including reconstructions and salvage procedures of SNAC and SLAC wrists and tendon transfers.

I was generally impressed by how well research and the teaching for residents/fellows are integrated into daily clinical life turning morning conferences into an educational event.

I can only recommend to take advantage of the unique opportunity offered by the IBRA fellowship worldwide. Beside gaining experience and seeing and learning new approaches to

cases and surgeries, it is a one-off chance to meet new people and form international connections for the future.



Last but not least Phoenix and the whole of Arizona are worth a travel. Beside sports, cultural and music events as well as lots of good restaurants there are Sedona and the Grand Canyon national park within easy travelling distance, and also California is only a short air trip away!

I would very much like to thank the IBRA committee for giving me the opportunity offered by its international fellowship program to gain further experience and widen my horizon. The scholarship program has been of great personal benefit to my career.

My profound thanks also go to Prof. Meffert (Director of the Trauma, Hand and Reconstructive Surgery Department, University Hospital of Würzburg) for supporting my application and Prof. Rudert (Director of the Orthopaedic Department of the University Hospital of Würzburg) for making it possible for me to go.

Very special thanks go to Scott Edwards for the wonderful and unforgettable experience and teaching I was allowed to enjoy in Phoenix. I very much appreciated the huge effort the department went through to make me part of the team. Great thanks also to Andy Blount, Meredith Workman as well as Lloyd Champagne, Joe Zoldos and Anne Radecki and Jill Goodwin.



Thank you!

Annabel Fenwick