

# Report of the WASPaLM Gordon Signy Fellowship 2014

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**Institution:** Johns Hopkins Hospital, Department of Pathology, Division of Surgical Neuropathology, Baltimore, MD, USA.

**Host pathologist:** Fausto J. Rodriguez, MD.

**Period:** March to May, 2014.

**Area of interest:** Neuropathology.

My experience was a 3-month rotation at the Division of Surgical Neuropathology of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Pathology Department. During this time I was exposed to 190 in-house cases, 345 external consultations, over 750 study set cases, and numerous neuropathology frozen sections (5-10 per day). My responsibilities included assessment of consult cases, previewing them, and then participating in sign-out with Dr. Fausto J. Rodriguez, Dr. Peter C. Burger and Dr. Charles G. Eberhart, all extremely experienced neuropathologists. I also directly participated in ordering ancillary studies, such as immunohistochemistry and molecular tests, intradepartmental collaboration on select cases, and at times was required to obtain additional material from the referring pathologist. I experienced some of the most interesting and challenging neuropathology cases from the US and the rest of the world, as they receive a significant amount of international consult cases. I was also able to attend multiple conferences including tumor board, neuromuscular diseases conference, and a weekly conference of neurodegenerative diseases with Dr. Juan C. Troncoso and Dr. Barbara J. Crain.

In addition to my focus on neuropathology, I also found the time to participate in other activities in the field of Surgical Pathology. I attended a weekly Grand Rounds conference at the Hurd Hall, several anatomic pathology lectures at the Carnegie building covering multiple topics, and a weekly Unknown Cases Conference at the Weinberg building, which was one of the highlights of my visit. I interacted with many pathologists, residents, and fellows, all of whom were exceptionally kind and helpful. I also had the opportunity to start a research project with Dr. Rodriguez, which will soon be completed and published, hopefully leading to future collaborations between our institutions.

I have many people to thank. I would like to express my appreciation to Dr. Fausto J. Rodriguez, who made me feel welcome during my entire rotation and from whom I learned a lot about the art of Neuropathology. I would also like to thank to Dr. Peter C. Burger, a great professor, friend, and one of the "fathers" of neuropathology. In

addition, I would like to thank Dr. David Nauen, Dr. Robert Bell, Dr. Nathan Cuka, Dr. Israel Kasago and Leslie Reynolds, people who always tried to help me and to make me feel comfortable. You made me feel like I was right at home. To Dr. Stephania Bezerra, thank you for being by my side for the last four years and for always giving me the strength to face new experiences, such as this amazing fellowship. I would like to thank all of the staff in the Department of Pathology and the A.C. Camargo Cancer Center, especially to Dr. Fernando A. Soares, for giving me this wonderful opportunity and supporting me during this rotation. Finally, thank you very much to the WASPaLM for allowing young pathologists to receive high-level training in different areas of pathology at the best institutions in the world. All of you can be assured that I will share the experience and knowledge I acquired in these last 3 months with my colleagues and residents here in Brazil.

Sincerely,

**Felipe D'Almeida Costa**



**Left:** Dr. Fausto J. Rodriguez and Dr. Felipe D. Costa. **Right:** Dr. Peter C. Burger and Dr. Felipe D. Costa. Both pictures were taken during frozen sections.