

2004 Dr. Isabela W. Cunha, Brazil

Dear Dr. Barrie Murphy,

First of all, I would like to acknowledge the opportunity of this period at Mayo Clinic, Rochester (MN), USA. The Department of Pathology at Mayo Clinic is one of the best in the Country, and the opportunity of spending time there was very important. Apart of my training specifically, I participated of several surgical pathology rounds, conferences and other educational activities from the regular academic schedule of the Department.

My mentor during these two months was Dr. Antonio Nascimento, a very well known soft tissue pathologist, with several publications on the field. I participated of his daily signed out routine, which includes more than 50 cases per day. These cases were not only about soft tissue pathology, but also included difficult cases of surgical pathology in general. This period was important not only to learn about soft tissue pathology, but also to understand how to manage a busy routine in a big Pathology Department. It was of great value to sit every day with Dr. Nascimento and see how he conducted the cases. Finally, the immunohistochemistry laboratory is very efficient, performing stains in three shifts, and creating the possibility to have all routine done at same day.

Another advantage that I have taken was the opportunity to improve my skills in bone pathology. Every thursday I had attended a soft tissue/bone conference with orthopedic surgeons, oncologists, radiologists and radiotherapeuts to discuss the cases of the week. Dr. Unni, a very well known bone pathologist, conducts these conferences. It was particularly productive because we could discuss all clinic-pathological aspects of the patient and see how our diagnosis can affect the treatment.

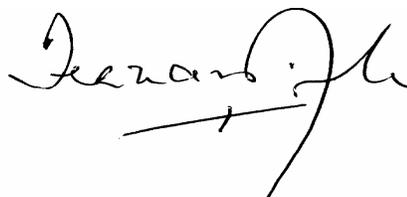
I have no doubt that these two months was really important to my career and I will be able to perform better at my Institution. Therefore, I will be able to provide the surgeons and oncologists the information that they need to better treat our patients at Hospital do Cancer A.C. Camargo, Sao Paulo, Brasil.

Sincerely yours

ISABELA WERNECK DA CUNHA

Dear Dr. Barrie Murphy

I would like to thank you for the opportunity that you gave to one of our staff pathologists. We work at Hospital do Cancer de São Paulo which is a reference center for patients with sarcoma. We really needed someone trained in this field. Dr. Isabela W. Cunha is a young pathologist very responsible and it was very important to our institution to have her working here with all the knowledge that she acquired during this period that she stayed at Mayo Clinic.



Fernando Augusto Soares