Gordon Signy Fellowship Report





Anatomic pathology, Department di Biotecnologie Medichen Hematology

Italy, Europe

A. TRAINEE INFORMATION

Name of trainee Dr.Fredrick Otieno Okinyi,

Country Kenya

Background Masters in General pathology (Anatomic pathology, hematology and

clinical pathology)

Experiencial fellowship in clinical hematology(Diagnosis and

treatment of lymphoma)

Position Lecturer of Hematology
Area of Subspecialty Hematopathology
Duration of training Fellowship July to December 2022

Home Institution of Trainee University of Nairobi, KNH Campus,

Kenyatta National Teaching and Referral Hospital, Department of Human Pathology, Hematology Unit

Personal statement

I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to the Regents of the Gordon Signy Fellowship for awarding me fellowship to enhance my skills and competency in Hematopathology at the University of Siena, Italy in Europe. This was an exposure to modern practice of pathology and a practical experience in the implementation of WHO reporting requirements for hematolymphoid disorders that is considered the universal language for communication among clinicians.

B.MENTORS

Prof.Lorenzo Leoncini the primary mentor working closely with Prof.Stephano Lazzi in the department of anatomic pathology.

In hematology Prof. Allessandro Gozzetti with other haematologists

C.THE TRAINING INSTITUTION

Siena university has a well-equipped laboratory with modern diagnostic armamentarium that serves the Tuscana region. The Hematopathology services are provided to the hospital patients and being a subspecialty regional referral center, there are many referrals as far as Florence and many other regions. It's well endowed with resources that gives sufficient infrastructure layout, efficient specimen handling and processing, commodity supply, equipment functioning and maintenance ,networked information and results reporting system as well as biosafety and biosecurity. It has units and equipment for immunohistochemistry, cytogenetics and experimental laboratory.

The laboratory has a diverse human resource with competencies in various aspects of pathology. This provides a rich experience for consultation demonstrating cross-cutting role of Hematopathology in skin lymphomas, breast, gastrointestinal, nasopharyngeal lesions and soft tissue tumors,

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There are students doing postgraduate/masters in human pathology making the environment conduisive for learning and research.

D.THE AREAS OF TRAINING AND COMPETENCIES DURING FELLOWSHIP

- **1. Mentorship on bench work**: The mentors organized day to day reporting of lymph node specimens, bone marrow trephine preparations and other tissues suspected to be involved with malignant and benign hematolymphoid disorders. The morphological assessment involved the use of routine Romansky stains, special histiochemistry and extensive panel for immunohistochemistry stains.
- **2. Meeting, Conferences and Research**: I was privileged to attend the 21st Meeting of the European Association for Hematopathology 17-22 September 2022, Florence, Italy. This Conference formed a strong foundation in understanding the current advances and modern approach in the diagnosis, reporting of leukemia and Lymphomas. It provided a platform for understanding the basis of classification and characterizing the hematolymphoid malignancies in the 5th Edition of WHO classification of hematolymphoid tumours. I attended the various sessions organized by eminent researchers in lymphomas and Leukemia from diverse parts of the continents. There was plenary discussions on the various hematological and lymphoid disorder on approaches to diagnosis, rational for use of immunophenotyping and confirmation using molecular techniques. There were various research papers presented in Hematopathology and this provided a rapid, concrete induction to fit in the reporting and practice at the Siena university hospital. We also discussed various research giving constructive critique on the relevance and findings.
- **3. Hematology and Consultations**: The subsequent training continued with case to case discussion of the various laboratory consults from the hospital and outside presented by the residents with in depth analysis by Prof.Leoncini and Prof. Stephano Lazzi .Molecular tests were also done to confirm the diagnosis based on specific signatures and criteria. There was good coordination in review and discussion of Haematology cases lead by haematologists Prof.Allessandro Gozzetti on bone marrow morphology aspirates.
- **4. Flow cytometry**: This was done under the guidance of well experienced medical laboratory scientist Elena Bestoso .The focus was on selection of appropriate panel, specimen preparation, basic strategies of gating, analysis of the data and interpretation.

E.CONTINUATION AND COLLABORATION

During this period, I successfully registered for PHD and it will involve a twinning program between my home institution, the university of Nairobi and University of Siena in the application of the experience to translate into modern practice of Hematopathology.

Thanks once again to the Gordon Signy Fellowship for granting me the opportunity to learn from the best.

Dr.Fredrick Otieno Okinyi
Long live The World Pathology Foundation

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Prof.Stefano Lazzi Prof.Lorenzo Leoncini Dr.Fredrick Okinyi
The team of Hematopathology with respective names during training