



Gordon Signy Fellowship 2017

Fellow: Dr. Esperança Ussene

Country of origin: Mozambique

Training institution: Centro Hospitalar Lisboa Ocidental – Egas Moniz Hospital, Portugal

Training supervisors: Dr. Martinha Chorão and Dr. Lucília Carvalho

Training period: September to December 2017

Report

Following the Gordon Signy Fellowship that was awarded to me, it is with great pleasure that I present my report to the World Pathology Foundation, after completing my training in Neuropathology and Fetoplacental Pathology at the Centro Hospitalar Lisboa Ocidental, Egas Moniz Hospital.

The training was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Martinha Chorão (Neuropathology) and Lucília Carvalho (Fetoplacental Pathology), and lasted for 4 months (two months for each area).

In Portugal, Egas Moniz Hospital is a reference in the pathological diagnosis of central nervous system and peripheral nervous system pathologies, as well as in the pathological diagnosis of fetoplacental pathology. The pathology residents of several training centers in Portugal, receive their training in these two areas at the Egas Moniz Hospital.

I started my training with fetoplacental pathology. During this time I did all the fetal autopsies (with and without funeral) and also I approached all the placentas and other pathologies associated with pregnancy. It was very important to learn how to approach fetal autopsies, since during my training as a pathologist I did not have this opportunity (in the hospital where I did the medical residency in pathology, fetal autopsies were extremely rare). I learned what are the most important aspects to take into account in a fetal autopsy



depending on the gestational age and how to frame the causes of death in each of the categories (fetal, placental or maternal). The study of the placentas was also extremely important because I have often been able to correlate the morphological findings of the placenta with the autopsy findings and with the clinical findings. During this period I did a total of 50 fetoplacental related pathological exams, 20 of which were fetal autopsies.

Then I did the training in Neuropathology. In this area, I observed a total of 80 pathological exams, including central nervous system, peripheral nervous system, neoplastic and non-neoplastic pathologies. It was very important to address cases of neoplastic pathology according to the new recommendations of WHO. I also had the opportunity to learn how to do and how to give diagnoses in extemporaneous examination in Neuropathology. In addition, I observed a considerable number of cerebrospinal fluid for both diagnosis and follow-up of patients. Moreover, I could observe the cases collection of neuropathology.

Besides these activities, every week I attended the meetings, discussions and case presentations.

Once again, I would like to thank the World Pathology Foundation for the opportunity and my training supervisors for the availability and kindness.

Surely this training will make a big difference in my life as a pathologist.

Best regards

Lisbon, February 2018

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Esperança da Paz Ussene". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Esperança da Paz Ussene