

REPORT OF THE GORDON SIGNY FELLOW

**Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico (IRCCS)
TURIN, ITALY**

Dr. Merina Rajbhandari



I am very grateful to World Pathology Foundation to be considerate enough to postpone my 2014 fellowship to 2016 due to the earthquake in Nepal. I did Breast Pathology training at **Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico (IRCCS)**, Candiolo, Turin, Italy. My training was under the expert guidance of Dr. Anna Sapino from October to November 2016.

When I arrived at the department, I was warmly greeted by Dr. Anna who introduced me to the pathologist team and other staff of the institute and oriented me to the department. Similarly, with the help of Dr. Ivana Sarotto, the schedule of my training was prepared and was handed over to me. IRCCS is one of the best known centers for oncology case diagnosis and management, and the department received a huge load of referral cases from different parts of Italy. During this tenure, I participated in all the advanced training activities of the pathology unit. Under the guidance of Dr. Davide Balmativola, I followed the grossing room and got used to the protocol and image acquisition procedure for breast surgical specimens. I followed the histological diagnosis using the specific checklist for breast cancers. Being able to attend the reporting of these challenging cases gave me a huge opportunity to expand my insight on the perplexities of breast malignancies. Some of these cases were extremely rare and required good clinico-pathological correlation. I also got familiar with immunohistochemistry and in particular to prognostic and predictive biomarkers of breast cancer. The department had regular multidisciplinary conferences wherein all the difficult cases would be discussed by the expert faculties of radiology, surgery and oncology. I also participated in the Core Biopsy and FNA procedures at the Radiology service. Molecular pathology was also a stronghold in the department and I was able to invest some time in the molecular laboratory and get familiar with techniques like FISH for HER2. Many of these tests are currently available only at selected centers in Nepal and I hope I can contribute to the development of at least some of these at my work place. Dr. Anna Sapino is a renowned breast pathologist with numerous publications to her credit. It was an honor to be able to witness the activities of the department under her guidance.

Lastly, I express my gratitude to World Pathology Foundation for granting me this platform to serve the purpose.