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To Whom It May Concern:

Thanks to the generosity of the ESPGHAN committee, I was able to spend 2 months (May 4th – June 30th) in the Gastroenterology and Transplantation Department of the Papa Giovanni XXIII Hospital in Bergamo, Italy, under the supervision of Professor Lorenzo D'Antiga.

Professor D'Antiga's competent team included me in their weekly routine: ward rounds in the Gastroenterology-Transplantation department, as well as regular visits to the Intensive Care Unit (for the newly-transplanted patients), weekly reunions with the surgical and socio-psychological teams, as well as the very interesting clinicopathological meetings, thanks to the active interest of the team in the pathological assessment of the patients' status.

I was allowed access to the clinical documents and took part in the diagnosis and therapy discussions; I was fortunate to see very varied and interesting cases, from cholestatic infants with difficult diagnoses to transplanted patients with early or long-term complications (graft-versus-host disease, biliary obstructions, transplant rejections etc.), intestinal transplant patients, portal hypertension cases and much more.

I also attended the outpatient clinic and got a better understanding of the medical treatment and surveillance of the transplanted patients in terms of appropriate post-transplant immunosuppression, follow-up frequency, clinical and laboratory monitoring, recognition and approach of acute and chronic complications after liver transplantation. An unexpected bonus was the "Updates in Pediatric Hepatology" meeting, a local symposium organized every year for the Italian Pediatric Hepatologists, which proved to be a huge source of new and helpful information for me, due to the very competent presentations by some very prestigious names in the field (to mention only Prof. Giordina Mieli-Vergani).

I would like to express my thanks to the helpful and friendly team I met in the Department, as well as to Prof. D'Antiga, who made it all possible. The knowledge I gained under his supervision will prove invaluable in the care of our own transplanted patients.

I am very grateful to the ESPGHAN committee for making this exchange possible; the grant, which covered my travel and accommodation costs, made possible a long-standing desire to broaden my knowledge in the Pediatric Hepatology field.

Sincerely,

Ana Ștefănescu