

EAACI Clinical Fellowship Report – Dr. Maria Nivatsi

The 2019 EAACI Clinical Fellowship award gave me a unique opportunity to spend three months (1/5/2019-31/07/2019) in the Paediatric Allergy Department at Imperial College (St Mary's Hospital, London), which is one of the largest tertiary referral centers in Europe. Imperial College is highly reputable for its clinical, research and teaching services making it the ideal place to run this fellowship.

From the start, the team of the department welcomed me and gave me the chance to join a wide range of clinical activities. Attending daily general paediatric allergy clinics (consultant-led), dietician-led consultations, as well as dedicated clinics on complex multi-system allergic diseases, difficult atopic eczema and complex gastrointestinal allergic disease gave me the opportunity to learn from over 400 clinical cases. Additionally, exposure to the Allergy Day Unit where challenges (food, drug) and immunotherapy take place, gave me the chance to link clinical history with symptoms and their treatment (even anaphylactic ones). Another useful and educational activity was the attendance of nurse-led clinics where skin prick testing, lung function testing and educational sessions on managing anaphylaxis, asthma and rhinitis are performed.

Furthermore, I had the chance to participate in the weekly multidisciplinary meetings in which various studies were presented and complex clinical cases were discussed. With the input and personal experience of the team members undoubtedly the learning points were many. Last but not least, I need to highlight the impressive work that is running in the research unit on immunotherapy-related studies.

I will be forever grateful to the whole medical team, especially to Dr. Marta Vasquez-Ortiz who has been my education supervisor, Dr. Claudia Gore, Dr. Helen Cox, Dr. Kakhoo, Dr. Robert Boyle, Prof. Custovic and the paediatric allergy registrars (Dr. Kotsapas, Dr. Duka) who made this learning experience so valuable. Being part of such a highly skilled team allows you to broaden your knowledge horizons and set a high target regarding your future practice.

To summarize, I really enjoyed being part of the EAACI Clinical Fellowship Program and it's definitely something I would recommend to colleagues that are looking to gain clinical experience in the field of allergy in a centre of excellence.