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My name is Elena Terecoasa and I received an ESO scholarship for participating in the European Master in Stroke Medicine. I am a neurologist and I am currently working in the Stroke Unit of the University Emergency Hospital in Bucharest (Romania). During my past training I performed a fellowship regarding revascularization procedures in acute ischemic stroke and later on I completed my Ph.D. thesis about the outcome and safety of thrombolysis in patients with ischemic stroke and atrial fibrillation. I applied for this master programme with the hope that I will achieve further knowledge regarding different aspects of stroke pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment which will improve my daily practice.

The first module was far beyond my expectations. The lectures held by professor Wolf-Dieter Heiss and professor Kurt Jellinger provided me a detailed and thorough insight into the pathophysiology and neuropathology of stroke, domains that should be cornerstones in the formation of all clinicians and researchers working in the field of cerebrovascular diseases. Further on, the lecture about local and systemic immune responses during the acute and chronic phase of stroke offered me a valuable understanding of the progression of ischemic lesions and the repair and recovery processes that occur afterwards. Furthermore, this lecture, together with the ones held by professor Michael Chopp, provided a wonderful insight into the scientific basis underlying the development of future therapeutic strategies in stroke. As my daily practice is mainly clinical, dedicated to acute stroke care, I particularly appreciated the sections regarding the use of neuroimaging techniques and neurosonology in acute stroke diagnosis. The information achieved during these lectures will definitely make me feel more confident in the process of choosing the most appropriate therapeutic approach for my patients. Another aspect to be mentioned is the unique opportunity that I had over the course of this first module to share personal experience with colleagues from a large variety of countries.