



Fondazione I.R.C.C.S.  
Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta

Sistema Socio Sanitario



Regione  
Lombardia

Report of the ESO Department to Department Program 2023



Hannover Medical School

Awardee: Dr. Maria Magdalena Gabriel, Resident at the  
Department of Neurology, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany

Host Institution: Dr. Anna Bersano, Director of the Cerebrovascular Disease Unit of IRCCS Foundation  
C Besta Neurological Institute, Milan, Italy

From March to June 2023, I had the great possibility to attend the Cerebrovascular Disease Unit and research group of Dr. Anna Bersano at the Carlo Besta Institute Milan. Besides a beautiful time in one of the most magnificent cities in Europe, I experienced an exceptional and outstanding 4-month stay at the Carlo Besta Institution and would like to thank Anna and her inspiring team including the whole staff of the neurobiological laboratory and the cerebrovascular ward. Working with her and her very welcoming, motivated and openminded team helped quickly to overcome language barriers and allowed to connect easily with these young clinical scientists on their daily routine as well as on their personal research fields.

Besides the opportunity to attend the daily patient rounds with a joint discussion of each case, I took part at patients' admissions as well as in interdisciplinary meetings where complex vascular cases and endovascular treatments were discussed. One of my personal highlights was the outpatient clinic for rare cerebrovascular diseases such as CADASIL, Fabry's Disease, Moyamoya arteriopathy, Central Nervous System vasculitis, cerebral amyloid angiopathy or arteriovenous malformations. Getting in touch with patients with monogenic cerebral small-vessel diseases e.g. COL4 A1/2 mutations for the first time shaped my experiences in the large and complex field of stroke enormously and confirmed my aspiration to specialize in the neurovascular field.

Besides these clinical experiences, it was a pleasure to have worked together on newly introduced diseases such as iatrogenic cerebral amyloid angiopathy. I am particularly proud for the opportunity to have published a review together with the team in the field of CAA and to have started a new cooperation with an intensified investigation of CAA patients of Hannover Medical School investigating their pathologic CNS tissue with the aim to intensify insights in the field of CAA. I am very much looking forward to future collaborations and I am thankful to the ESO to support these important exchanges. My gratitude goes to the Department-to-Department Committee for their generous and important support of young researchers like us. I hope to be part of such valuable projects as a mentor in the future and encourage everyone to apply for the next Department-to-Department program in Milan as well as in Hannover.

With many thanks

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Maria M. Gabriel

