

Feedback of the 3 ESO scholarship recipients 2019

Karlis George, Greece
General Hospital of Rhodes, Greece



Why is this program important?

European Master in Stroke Medicine is the only dedicated post-graduate program in Europe for physicians who are involved with the care of stroke patients. The ESO scholarship offers a significant financial aid to the students in order to complete their training in stroke medicine.

What you have learned/ are you learning?

I have improved my knowledge and skills and through this program, I acquired the “know-how” to set up a stroke service offering thrombolysis in my hospital.

Are your personal expectations met?

Definitely yes and yet I am half way.

What is the most positive aspect of the program?

The international network it creates between physicians who are leaders or going to be leaders in stroke medicine.

How do you plan to make use of the networking opportunities?

We have already established group communication through WhatsApp. We often discuss difficult cases, seek guidance and share state of the art research articles. Furthermore, the instructors of the program encourage us to contact them for expert advice or other issues concerning stroke care.

What are your personal impressions?

It's a brilliant program that promotes networking and mobility. I am lucky to be part of it.

What about making an alumni organization? What should be its role?

I strongly support the idea of an alumni organization to stay connected but mainly to share our experience with the next generation of stroke physicians.

Fenil Joseph, UK
Worcester Royal Hospital, UK



Why is this program important?

I have been a stroke physician for last 5 years and I already did my master in stroke medicine from Keele University, UK. However, I want to be pioneer of stroke medicine and after a long research, I found out that European Masters is the best available masters in Europe. It's very much into innovation in stroke medicine and gives you a platform for growing and learning further.

What you have learned/ are you learning?

Basic medical graduates learn only a little about stroke in their training and when you do a postgraduate faculty assume that students have learned all basics of stroke in their graduation. So there is only minimum effort made to teach about pathophysiology or molecular changes in stroke. So this course enable me to learn from basics of stroke and formal teaching especially into imaging category.

Are your personal expectations met?

Very much. I would take this opportunity to say that this course is very much evidence based.

What is the most positive aspect of the program?

All our professors are pioneers in their own fields and with sound knowledge and with great enthusiasm to teach their students. I think the faculty is the greatest attraction in this course.

How do you plan to make use of the networking opportunities?

I do work in a stroke unit which is fairly new. So I am trying to make this unit 24/7, so I am trying to draw the necessary guidance from network to implement this.

What are your personal impressions?

I am extremely happy to successfully complete this second masters in stroke medicine and to teach my colleagues or medical students in our clinical setup. This course gave me the sound knowledge and equipped me to do so.

What about making an alumni organization? What should be its role?

Well this is very much important, especially in a professional course like this. What is important is to establish communication within the group and share their own experience and to learn as we represent an international group. So making an alumni is quite important.

Susanna Zuurbier, Netherlands
Academic Medical Center Amsterdam



Why is this program important?

The European Master in Stroke program is very important for me because I would like to become a neurologist specialized in stroke. It is of value to have an education program for this specialised field. In the Netherlands, there is no additional training to become a neurologist specialized in stroke. Therefore, this education program is a great opportunity for academic medical speciality training in stroke medicine. Also, for continuing research in the field of stroke, international contacts are really important. Throughout all lectures and seminars, there is an expert research focus, thus covering all aspects of basic and clinical research.

What you have learned/ are you learning?

The European Master in Stroke Medicine focus on all fields of stroke ranging from acute diagnosis and interventions to rehabilitation and principles of neural repair. I have learned from the program practical knowledge and a complete coverage of the field of cerebrovascular diseases. I have learned to cope with the increasing disease burden due to stroke, and to establish evidence-based knowledge standards of stroke diagnosis and therapy.

Are your personal expectations met?

Yes, my personal expectations met.

Organizing the European Master in Stroke takes a lot of effort and they could not have done a better job. I would like to praise professor Michael Brainin and Bettina Überraeker-Denk for their wonderful scheduling of each event.

The lectures were very educative and practical. Learning from experienced and excellent researchers did not only happen in the classroom, but also moments spent together such as coffee breaks. That were excellent opportunities for networking and exchanging ideas with those that have contributed improving medicine for all of us in the last years. During the last European Master in Stroke, clinical cases and master thesis have been presented. We could ask questions and learn from others. Also, new ideas for an European Master thesis were presented. We all could commend on its feasibility and we give each other some advice to improve it.

What is the most positive aspect of the program?

The quality of the teachers, the charm of the place in Krems, and the welcoming atmosphere were all great. I feel very privileged to have been able to attend the European Master in Stroke, it is a rich experience. Not only the four modules with the examinations, but also the case presentations, the master thesis, the attendance of European conferences, and other stroke units make it to a valuable program.

How do you plan to make use of the networking opportunities?

The European Master in Stroke is a great opportunity to meet young researchers from all over the world. Coffee breaks, lunch, and dinner, for instance, are fundamental moments, allowing to create other than professional links between all of us. At the European Stroke Conference in Milan, a group of us will be there. We will meet each other there. Additionally, we have a WhatsApp group, and we share interesting information with all of us.

What are your personal impressions?

My personal impressions are that the program is very well organized. It is an extremely important experience. Especially the opportunity to improve my knowledge and my skills of stroke, in particular by very experienced stroke experts.

What about making an alumni organization? What should be its role?

An alumni organization would be a great idea. The role should be in my opinion to improve and to maintain the international contacts from masters interested in stroke.