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Stroke is a leading cause of mortality and disability worldwide. The last two and a half decades have seen a tremendous progress in the development of new therapeutic alternatives for this group of patients, transforming Stroke Medicine into a vibrant discipline.

I applied for the European Master in Stroke Medicine hoping to find a place where I could obtain a systematic knowledge of the evidence available in this field. This and more I found in this Programme: on the one hand, lectures offering a state-of-the-art compilation of the knowledge available in topics ranging from basic research to rehabilitation, on the other hand, the opportunity to find a group of colleagues inspired by the same passion towards stroke medicine, providing an excellent environment to establish a network for future scientific collaboration. Furthermore, the European Master of Stroke Medicine offers the amazing opportunity to discuss with the very developers of the evidence we currently use, and to learn from their experience and insight regarding stroke research. The latest has an inestimable value for someone who wants to contribute in the development of stroke medicine by research. Overall, whether you are a clinician or researcher, you will find in Krams a place to improve and systematise your knowledge, and to develop further skills relevant to Stroke Medicine.

1. Why is this programme important for your career?

I enrolled into this program for two reasons: the first was to be able to acquire systematic knowledge in the area of stroke and cerebrovascular disease. The second, to be able to establish networks with both members of the faculty and fellow students.

2. What have you learned / are you learning yet?

Probably the class that made the deepest impression on me was the one made by Prof. Hacke regarding the organisation and pitfalls of clinical trials. The experience accumulated throughout the years and the clear way to convey the main points was certainly top-notch.

3. Are your personal expectations met?

Yes, thus far my personal expectations have been met.

4.-What is the most positive aspect of the course?

The interaction with the researchers who have produced the evidence we currently use and to be able to discuss the process that was behind the production of some watershed articles is probably the most positive part of the course.

5.-How do you plan to make use of the networking possibilities resulting from this course?

We have already started collaborating with colleagues in the production of review articles, which are at the same time the conceptual frame of further studies we plan to conduct.

6.-Don't forget to write to us your personal impressions.

I think that part of the colleagues attending this course are going to be leaders in the area of stroke research within the next 10-15 years. I think it would be good that the existing structures could support their professional development. For instance, the young stroke physician section of the ESO

is not particularly active. The ESO Master in Stroke Medicine is a perfect environment to find new active members for such division of the ESO, however, not a single contact has been ever made. Selected participants of the Master course with potential in research could be invited to attend the science stroke workshop.

7. Would you be interested in an alumni organization of previous students of the course? If yes please specify what it should do?

Yes, I would be strongly interested in such structure. I think it could further improve and strengthen the possibilities of collaborative research across Europe between colleagues with interest in the field.