

# **Report for the clinical clerkship in the Department of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine at University Medical Centre, Groningen.**

I was elated to see my name in the list of students selected for Student Exchange Programme and that too in University Medical Centre, Groningen. I was overjoyed when I came to know that I got Radiology as my subject. My dream came true and I am happy to be associated with this university. I have spent an amazing 4 weeks at University Medical Centre. The report provides me with an opportunity to give some insight into the hospital, my time there and why the experience was so beneficial.

## **About the hospital**

University Medical Centre, Groningen is one of the oldest universities in Europe with a long tradition of academic excellence. It is one of the largest hospitals, offering tertiary care to the northern part of Netherlands. It is also the center of trauma care of the North of the Netherlands by providing a trauma helicopter of its own and by creating the possibility for trauma helicopters to land on the roof and to bring their patients directly to the operating center.

## **About the Department of Radiology at UMCG**

Radiology offers an excellent overview of most areas of medicine, including medical and surgical subspecialties as well as basic medical sciences such as anatomy and pathology. Radiology department at UMCG is divided into eight sections, each concerned with a defined group of patients – such as abdominal, musculoskeletal, thoracic diseases, neurology and head & neck, cardiovascular, breast, children and interventional radiology.

This clerkship has assisted me in consolidating knowledge that I had gained along the way in my medical training and enhanced basic skills in imaging interpretation. Every day my day would start at 8:30 in the morning. I had a perfect schedule for the week and I was assigned to different staff concerned with different sections. The staffs were very kind enough to explain to me in English. There was emphasis on problem

solving techniques using imaging and interpretation of the radiological studies into the patient care. I could also give my views; this accompanied correct and incorrect responses with explanations for further understanding. They taught me how to read X-rays, CT, MRI and USG using the Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS). I would accompany the staff when they went for an ultrasound or CT.

### **Things I learnt**

The basic thing that I learnt was gross radiological anatomy.

Chest radiography- basic appearances of infection (pneumonia), pleural effusion, mediastinal masses, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancers.

CT of thorax -appearances in infection, tumours and pulmonary embolism.

Musculoskeletal radiography -approach to fractures & how to describe them, dislocations, some basic arthropathies-osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis and tumours-bone cyst.

Ultrasound of musculoskeletal system- normal appearances of tendon, appearance in case of tendinopathies, rotator cuff injury and rupture of Achilles tendon.

Head CT- basic axial neuroanatomy, and fractures.

MRI brain-differences between T1 weighted and T2 weighted imaging and what each is suited to demonstrate. Appearances in pathological conditions like infarction and feature suggestive of tumour.

Ultrasound abdomen-normal appearances, size of liver, kidneys, gallbladder, pancreas, spleen, abdominal aorta and other blood vessels of the abdomen. Appearances in pathological conditions such as stones in the gallbladder or kidney, dilated intra or extra hepatic biliary system, hydronephrosis, ascites, tumours and blood flow using Doppler images to see vessels.

CT of abdomen –normal location /appearances of solid organs, great vessels of the abdomen. Appearances in pathological conditions like the abdominal aortic aneurysm, tumours, ascites, gallstones and hydronephrosis.

The faculty of the department were very good, cooperative and cordial with me, that actually made me learn better. I really had a great time in the department as I had got an opportunity to do an ultrasound of the abdomen. Even though I was a student the patients were very cooperative, as they would allow me to visualise the procedures.

### **About the Department of Nuclear Medicine at UMCG**

Nuclear medicine concerns with application of radiopharmaceuticals for functional imaging of different diseases (Oncology, Neurology, Cardiovascular, Inflammation and General Nuclear Medicine), with a particular emphasis on PET-CT and SPECT-CT.

I had my clerkship in the department of nuclear medicine for only one week and I saw procedures of bone scan and myocardial perfusion scan. The faculty of the department taught me the interpretation of bone scan (malignancies and arthritis), myocardial perfusion scan (resting and stress scans), PET scan (FDG PET for diagnosis, staging and monitoring treatment of tumors. DOPA PET for neuroendocrine tumors), SPECT scan and thyroid scintigraphy.

### **About the social life**

Social life in Groningen is awesome. I had no problem regarding accommodation in the International Student House at Antillenstraat. The only drawback was that there was no Internet service. I spent my weekends visiting the cities in Netherlands. People are very helpful and even I am moved by the gesture of the citizens of this country when I was moving out of the university.

### **Summary**

Overall I had an excellent clerkship at UMCG and would thoroughly recommend it to anyone who would like to get involved in a friendly, welcoming hospital. This clerkship is particularly useful for all those who are interested in choosing radiology as a career but even those who are interested in some other speciality, will learn a lot about their speciality and acquire a great deal of experience to increase their education and skills. I had a fantastic experience medically yet also enjoyed immersing myself in the life and culture of the local area, leading to a thoroughly rewarding time. I thank very much the University of Manipal and the University Medical Centre, Groningen

Netherlands for giving me an opportunity for doing the clerkship. I will be at fault if I am not mentioning here the hospitality shown by the Groningen University from receiving me at the Airport or providing me the lodging facility they have offered to me. During my stay I never thought that I am out of my country.

I once again thank the all the concerned in the matter.

Thanking You

Yours faithfully.

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