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| Name: | Federico Pecoraro, MD |
| Nationality / Country of residence | Italian |
| Place of Work: | University of Turin, Neurosurgery - Department of Neuroscience and Mental Health- Torino |
| Specialisation: | Neurosurgery |
| Member of EUROSPINE since: | 2016 |
| Fellowship: | March 2017 Neurocentrum - Liberec Regional Hospital (Czech Republic) Prof. Petr Suchomel |

My name is Federico Pecoraro and I am a Neurosurgeon Resident (PGY V - last year) at the University of Turin, working alongside Professor Alessandro Ducati's team (Neurosurgery - Department of Neuroscience and Mental Health- Torino)

My field of specialization is mainly around spinal pathology (degenerative, trauma, tumors). I have already had the opportunity to attend a 3 months Research Fellowship at the Presbyterian Hospital in New York working in close cooperation with Dr. Daniel K. Riew and his staff at the Cervical Spine Surgery Department. This generated in me a huge interest on the treatment of cervical spine pathology above all. During this first experience I understood the great educational value these kinds of experiences can have in the training process of a future surgeon.

For this reason in March 2017 my Chief Prof. Alessandro Ducati gave me the opportunity to face a new awesome experience and thanks to the support received from EUROSPINE I have attended a 3 weeks Research Fellowship at the Neurocentrum - Liberec Regional Hospital (Czech Rep.) guided by Prof. Petr Suchomel.

The aim of this fellowship was to study in deep the use of new technologies applied in spine surgery such as intraoperative CT scan and navigation systems. In this field Prof. Suchomel and his team represent the greatest exponents within the modern treatments of spinal pathology.



During my experience I was fully involved in the department activities including cases discussion, decision making process, patients care etc. The most important aspect has been the opportunity to be scrubbed as II operator during some of the most interesting cases (carefully selected by Prof. Suchomel for my period with his staff), giving me the chance to directly improve my knowledge about their surgical activity and the use of the most modern technologies.

Thanks to all this I have further understood the importance of a detailed evaluation of individual anatomy, rational pre-operative planning and final intra-operative control to better improve the safety and precision of classical spinal surgical procedures. This can drastically reduce morbidity in spine surgery due to its main causes (mechanical, neurological, and vascular). The entire activity at the Neurocentrum in Liberec is still directed towards further developments of new technologies in this field, above all in crano-vertebral and cervico-thoracic junctions.

In my department in Torino we are going to obtain some of these useful instruments such as intraoperative CT, and I hope to apply all I've learned from this research program.



One thing that I really appreciated was the opportunity to give a lecture to my Czech colleagues on the activity performed in my Neurosurgery Department in Italy, doubling the value of the program allowing the hosts to indirectly know what is done in other surgical realities.

I strongly believe that this kind of experiences are fundamental in our training process, giving us the opportunities to learn from renowned and experienced surgeons all over the world, such as Prof. Suchomel. Not to forget the possibility to reciprocally improve (host and guest) from our medical and surgical knowledges acquired in our respective countries.

For this reason I really want to thank Prof. Alessandro Ducati who pointed me towards the best choice and above all EUROSPINE for its extremely important support that has made all this possible. Open minded personalities such as my Director and companies like EUROSPINE are fundamental for the development of surgery in new generations.