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Observership:	Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark Prof. Martin Gehrchen 1–15 April 2018

At the outset I would like to thank the EUROSPINE Education Committee members for giving me the opportunity to go on a 2-week long observership at one of the most reputed spine centres in the Northern Europe – Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark under the guidance of Professor Martin Gehrchen.

This is a tertiary referral centre where the spine department deals with mainly deformities, tumours, infections, trauma, difficult revision cases and also emergencies and referred cases from other hospitals in the region.

The hospital has a very good location, not too far from city centre and has a very busy patient inflow. The orthopaedics department is very big covering all the sub specialities and the spine team there comprises of 11 surgeons which gives a fair idea of the number of cases they must be treating.

I was there for a period of 2 weeks from 1st to 15th April 2018. I was very well received on my arrival at the hospital and the entire staff was very warm and friendly to me. Professor Gehrchen is a teacher par excellence and he took great interest to tell me about his techniques of deformity corrections in paediatrics as well as adults. I was allowed to scrub in the surgeries as an assistant which made observing the techniques of correction much easier and convenient.

There is a departmental meeting every morning followed by spine team meeting where they plan the day and discuss about the patients which will be operated that day and are admit in wards. Followed by a meeting with radiologist where they discuss the interesting cases and the referred cases which were very informative. All the members of the spine team took

care to explain to me what they were discussing and translated it in English for which I would like to thank them for this warm gesture.

I got to see a number of cases like a double level hemivertebra resection in which they used a navigation guided curved osteotome to excise the hemivertebra which I saw there for the first time. En-block vertebrectomies for metastasis to lumbar region, correction of neuro muscular scoliosis in a kid with cerebral palsy, adult deformities with sagittal imbalance in which they did a PSO with long segment fixation from D10 TO Pelvis with S2AI screws. I also got to see transthoracic corpectomy, kyphoscoliosis in a c/o ankylosing spondylitis in which fixation from T2-L3 with multi-level Pontes was done; transpedicular decompression for spondylodiscitis, and also ACDF and cervical corpectomies for mets in a case of malignant melanoma, just to name a few cases.

Within this busy schedule I also took out some time for myself to go around the beautiful city of Copenhagen and I realised why Demark is called the happiest country on earth.

Overall, I would say that the observership lived up to my expectation and I came back to India as a better surgeon and hopefully would be able to serve my patients at par with what I learned there.