

### **Report on Fulbright Exchange Program Visit**

**TO:** Ege University  
Izmir, Turkey & International Asthma Meeting, Istanbul  
New Orleans, LA 70112

**FR:** Warren Summer, MD  
LSUHSC Department of Medicine – Pulmonary Critical Care

**DATE:** August 23, 2007

Dr. Summer's visit to Ege University was part of an exchange program through a Fulbright Grant which began with a 2004 award to the Primary Investigator Juzar Ali.

The particular exchange program with Dr. Summer included meetings with the pulmonary and Critical Care faculty at Ege University and the Critical Care faculty at Tepechik Hospital. Discussions were held with the pulmonary section chiefs and the head of the Department of Medicine. Discussions were particularly eventful because of a simultaneous visit of a Columbia University Lung Transplant surgeon who was also lecturing at Ege University.

Discussions with administrators included organizational issues, staffing, faculty recruitment, continuing medical education, delivery of medical care and other medical systems and academic processes. Discussions even included national health care verses the value of privatization of medical care and perceived obstacles which were being entertained at the National level.

The visit was managed by Dr. Abdula Sayiner who arranged various scheduled interactions between Dr. Summer and individual Ege University faculty members, and the Tepechik Ege University Hospital. Dr. Summer gave two lectures, one to the entire pulmonary faculty and residents on pulmonary service at Ege University on "Critical Care Management". A relatively similar but more practical and problem oriented lecture was given to the ICU staff faculty at Tepechik Pulmonary Hospital. In addition to meeting with varying faculty members and giving lectures Dr. Summer made daily ICU rounds during the week of June 18, 2007 thru June 22, 2007.

The rounds at the two ICU's included patient presentations, x-ray interpretation, and discussions on ventilator management and pulmonary physiology. In addition Dr. Summer discussed varying patient focused aspects of ICU care such as antibiotic management, fluid administration, diet, airway management such as suctioning, indications for tracheotomy and its optimum timing, and methods of insertion. Other topics that were discussed included prevention of nosocomial pneumonia, GI-bleeding, and skin ulcers.

Dr. Summer also had focused discussions with individual faculty on processes of care, means of maximizing ICU efficiencies, and nurse satisfaction, as well as complex discussions on views of death and dying {which have rarely been addressed previously by Izmir faculty}.

Dr. Summer gained great insight into different management styles for similar respiratory problems seen at LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. In addition he widened his experience of respiratory problems by seeing a large number of patients. Dr. Summer was most impressed by making rounds in focused respiratory units in distinction to general medical ICU's which care for a wide variety of patients which is typical of the USA organizational process.

Both hospitals had large respiratory buildings and Pulmonary sections wholly devoted to management of pulmonary problems. Dr. Summer was surprised by the organizational structures within these large chest hospitals which were divided into numerous sub-sections {each sub-section had a chief who did not necessarily communicate well with other sub-section "chiefs"}.

Overall direction of the pulmonary program was strong at Ege University but weaker at Tepechik Hospital. Surprisingly anesthesia had separate ICU units which had much more access to hemodynamic monitoring than did the pulmonary ICU's.

During Dr. Summer's stay in Turkey there happen to be an international meeting on Asthma in Istanbul. Dr. Summer is the Asthma Disease Manager at LSUHSC and a member of the American Lung Association Asthma Research Centers. Attending this International meeting gave Dr. Summer the opportunity to interact with other pulmonary doctors from Istanbul, as well as asthma researchers and physicians from all areas of the world. This interaction clearly was exciting and widened Dr. Summer's knowledge and views of asthma management, and disease mechanisms which he will be able to discuss with the LSU faculty in the future.

Dr. Summer feels that he clearly gained knowledge and insight into different methods of disease management as well as increased his overall knowledge of experience in the understanding of respiratory diseases. He also gained new insight into cultural differences and how they affect disease incidents, presentation, and management.

Dr. Summer felt particularly fortunate to have been able to interact both on a professional and personal basis with a number of Turkish physicians. He feels that the exchange program was an extremely fruitful event, and that it should clearly lead to on-going clinical and research collaborations' as well as future academic exchange programs between LSUHSC and Ege University.

Yours truly,

Dr. Warren Summer  
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