

**MAARIT VUENTO - Department of Gynecological Oncology in Radiumhospital at the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm**

I work as a senior consultant in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Tampere University Hospital, which is one of the largest university hospitals in Finland. My subspeciality is gynecological oncology. At our department a psychosexual clinic for gynecological cancer patients was established in autumn 2006. I was a member of the group responsible for the planning and establishment of this new clinic. At the Department of Gynecological Oncology in the Karolinska Institute a psychosexual clinic for cancer patients has been in operation for several years. The purpose of this visit was to deepen my knowledge in this field under the supervision of experienced authority Dr. Karin Bergmark . This knowledge could then be used for the benefit of our newly established psychosexual clinic. The head of the Department of Gynecological Oncology at the Karolinska Institute, Professor Elisabeth Åvall-Lundqvist had accepted the request of the visit and she warmly welcomed me there.

Dr. Karin Bergmark had planned a very interesting program for the week. I visited the clinic from September 17. to September 21., 2007. On Monday morning she introduced me to the staff of the clinic. After the morning meeting she showed me the out patient clinic and the ward. During the week I had many possibilities to sit in at the patient receptions by many colleagues at the outpatient clinic, radiotherapy unit and the ward. Meetings concerning therapy planning, radiotherapy, pathology or radiology were very interesting and the discussions fruitful and educative, e.g. on Friday afternoon the visit culminated in the fascinating lecture about medical ethics held by Professor Stefan Einhorn.

On Tuesday I had the pleasant possibility of visiting the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Karolinska Institute hosted by Head of the Department, Dr. Birgitta Larsson. At the operation theatre I had a chance to follow the operations performed on gynecological cancer patients. On Thursday evening I traveled with Karin Bergmark to Örebro, where she held a lecture for cancer patients and their relatives about the psychosexual aspects of their disease and the different cancer therapies.

At the Karolinska Institute there is a modern and separate rehabilitation unit, which I had an opportunity to visit with Karin. At the rehabilitation unit work many different experts including physiotherapists, dieticians, sexual therapists and art therapists. Their professional knowledge is valuable when we are working with cancer patients and their psychosexual problems. I would like to thank all the friendly colleagues of the Department of Gynecological Oncology at the Karolinska Institute, especially Karin Bergmark for planning such an interesting program for the week. I am especially grateful to the board of NFOG for making my visit possible.

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