

THE REPORT OF NFOG VISITOR PROGRAM 2006

The visitor: Marjut Rintala, M.D., Ph.D., specialist in obstetrics and gynecology, the second year fellow in gynecologic oncology

Time of the visit: November 19th – December 1st, 2006

The hosting clinic: Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Lund University Hospital, Sweden

The sending clinic: Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Turku University Hospital, Finland

I got a wonderful opportunity to visit Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Lund University Hospital, Sweden, on November 2006. That time I was the second year fellow in gynecologic oncology at Turku University Hospital. I was especially interested in improving my clinical skills in gynaecologic oncology surgery. Specialist Christer Borgfeldt was very kind to invite me to Lund, and he took good care of me during my two week visit.

As I wished I stayed mostly in the operating theatre. I was daily assistant doctor in gynaecologic cancer operations such as ovary, uterus and vulva cancer operations. I was very anxious to learn more about operation techniques and I was taught many helpful clues. I also saw Technetium injection for vulva patient and I saw laparoscopic omentectomy for ovary cancer patient.

The main excitement in operation theatres was certainly to see the robot surgery. I had also opportunity to try the mechanism of the robot, and I was excited. Three dimension picture and instrument with joints made operation as an art. Jan Persson and Christer Borgfeldt were very talented. They taught live robot surgery for colleagues from other hospitals. For the robot surgery they have had to learn new techniques which have proceeded whole gynaecologic oncology surgery.

The main difference between the Swedish and Finnish gynaecologic oncology treatments was that in Sweden gynaecologists operate and oncologists take care of chemo- and radiotherapy. In Finland gynaecologic oncologists operate, give chemotherapy and partly give radiotherapy. However, I saw the very close co-operation between gynecologists and oncologists in Lund. They examined patients in anesthesia together, and they had every week meetings together to discuss patients' treatments. They had many complicated cases to resolve such as cancer relapses, and it was interesting to listen their discussions and treatment decides. They have written their own handbook for cancer treatments with nice internet version.

I want to express my warm thanks for the colleagues and staff in Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in University Hospital in Lund. I had a wonderful possibility to learn more about gynecologic oncology and get to know colleagues from other Nordic country. Thanks for Christer Borgfeldt for his guidance and friendship. And huge thanks for the NFOG board to give me this wonderful opportunity.

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