

Purpose of the visit:

Take advantage of the competence and the organization of the Centre of Excellence for Hypertension of the European Hospital George Pompidou –University 5 DESCARTES –Paris(France) under the Direction of prof.Pierre Francois Plouin

Description of the work carried out during the visit:

During the 10 days visit I have spent part of the time in discussing with the staff of the Center their approach to the diagnosis and treatment of patients with primary aldosteronism and comparing it with our own methodology and results. In detail, dr Amar has presented the recent unpublished results of their study on the relationship between saline suppressibility of aldosterone and lateralization of adrenal vein sampling, showing that some patient who shows aldosterone suppression may still have an adrenal adenoma (false negative). These data are relevant to me since, being a member of the Working Group on Primary Aldosteronism of ENSAT and of Pannel who is in charged of writing the new text of the Endocrine Society Guidelines on Management of Primary Aldosteronism, I have the special task of reviewing the chapter on Confirmatory tests in the Diagnosis of Primary Aldosteronism.

Furthermore I have participate to clinical case discussion on several patients with adrenal tumors and given the contribution of my personal clinical experience on this field.

I have also taken advantage of the strict connection of the Hypertension Center with the "Centre d'Investigation Clinique (CIC)", directed by prof. Michel Azizi, and the Department of Genetic, directed by prof. Xavier Jeunemaitre to obtain a number of very important information on the projects going on in those Institutions. I have also spent some time in the INSERM Research Laboratory on "Genetic Mechanisms of aldosterone related disorders" directed by dr Christina Zennaro at the PRCC-U970 HEGP., with whom I have a long lasting experience of scientific collaboration and a number of common papers.

During my visit I had also the opportunity to attend the Meeting on Fibromuscular Dysplasia, which is responsible for a number of cases of Renovascular Hypertension and Secondary Aldosteronism.

Future collaboration with host insitution

During my stage I have discussed the possibility of common project on the validation of confirmatory tests in primary aldosteronism (Plouin-Amar) and of further genetic studies (on aldosterone producing adenoma (Zennaro)). Those projects (and others) will likely be presented at the incoming ENSAT Meeting in Budapest. Futhermore I have planned with prof. Azizi a future collaboration in order to set up in Padua a novel Clinical Research Center taking the CIC at the HEGP as a model.