

IUGA Observership Grant Report 2012 – VALERIA MONTUOSO

During the 2011 IUGA annual meeting in Lisbon I was awarded the IUGA observership grant for 2012 and from April 2nd to April 27th I had the honour to join Dr. Davila for 4 weeks at the Cleveland Clinic in Florida.

The aim of the observership was to gain insight in vaginal mesh insertion for pelvic organ prolapse and urinary incontinence and getting to know different techniques and meshes. I had the opportunity to see how biologic materials were used which are not available in my country. I reinforced all the knowledge that I had concerning adequate hydro-dissection, proper layout of the mesh, checking bladder and bowel integrity during insertion and tension free closure of the vagina before adjusting the tension of the mesh. The unit is a referral center that gets complex cases which gave me the opportunity to observe the management and resolution of mesh exposure, erosion, postoperative pain and recurrences.

Furthermore, I had the opportunity to observe 3D- 4D ultrasound in patients with SUI and prolapse before and after the surgery, outpatient consults, preoperative rounds, urodynamic, robotic and laparoscopic surgery for pelvic organ prolapse, including subtotal hysterectomy and sacrocolpopexy.

Since they work as a team with urology and I had the opportunity to observe sacral nerve stimulation procedures as well as the pre and postoperative consults.

Dr. Davila, Dr. Aguilar and the current fellows were really open to all the questions and gave all the explanations necessary regarding surgery techniques or medical decisions.

In addition to the scientific component to my visit and despite long hours on daily basis to observe clinical activity, I had the opportunity to visit different places in Florida.

Once again, I am grateful to IUGA for the observership award and to Dr. Davila for welcoming me into his unit. I have enjoyed my time in Weston and would recommend the unit for future observerships.