

June 15, 2024

Project Review Board for Serbian Clinical Immunology Fund
c/o Professor Sophie Hambleton
Deputy Head NUTCRI
Newcastle University
Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Final Report

Dear Sirs,

I've included below my final report on the grant kindly provided by the Lilic-Abinun Foundation, aimed to visit the St Jaimés's University Hospital, Department of Immunology and Allergy at Leeds (February 25th to March 8th 2024) and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Department of Immunology and Allergy at Newcastle Upon Tyne (March 10th to March 22nd, 2024)

My project was focused on gaining knowledge and experience about the management of patients with IEI with a special focus on:

- Clinical/laboratory assessment of adult PAD patients - at initial diagnosis, and during the follow-ups
- Organization of MDTs for PAD patients (team members, MDT organization, frequency, logistics, SOP, agenda)
- Treatment of non-infectious complications such as interstitial lung disease, cytopenias, gastrointestinal and hepatic disease, lymphoproliferative disease, and other malignancies
- Gaining knowledge on timely recognition of complications and introduction of immunomodulatory treatment in selected PAD patients with immune dysregulation/autoimmunity
- Assessment of adult PAD patients for BMT
- Transition of PAD patients from a paediatric to adult service
- Establishing connections for future research collaboration and education/training for our team members from Serbia

My application to the Foundation with the Project entitled “Developing management program for predominantly antibodies deficiencies (PAD): personalized approach for patients with non-infectious complications” was approved In July 2023.

Firstly, I spent two weeks at the St James' Hospital, where I had the privilege of being involved in different aspects of clinical work under the supervision of Professor Sinisa Savic.

Prof. Savic with his clinical/research team is internationally renowned for their expertise in the field of IEI and autoinflammatory diseases.

During the observership, I had the opportunity to join their clinics for inborn errors of immunity (IEI) and autoinflammatory diseases (AD), the clinic for drug allergies, and clinics led by the pharmacist who was dedicated to following the patient on the ongoing biologic treatment for IEIs, AD, and chronic spontaneous

urticaria (CSU). The MDT meetings organized by Professor Savic were held weekly. During the meetings, interesting and complex patients were discussed, and this was an excellent opportunity to improve my knowledge and to deepen my understanding of the clinical management of these patients. The meetings usually covered various topics, including discussions about patients with multiple drug allergies, AD, CSU, and IEI. This allowed me to enrich my professional experience, and improve my skills, which I hope to further implement in my practice.

Prof. Savic's research group is robust, comprising postgraduate researchers from all around the world engaged in diverse fields of study. Furthermore, the hosts of regular research seminars could be of importance to colleagues interested in basic science and translational immunology.

During the visit to the St James's Hospital, I had the opportunity to access to the National BMT meeting where the most complex patients with IEI were discussed in terms of evaluating them for the BMT procedure. These sessions offer a platform for clinicians to present their cases and gain insights from the leading experts in the field of BMT.

Thank to Professor Savic's kind invitation, I was able to join the first national meeting of the UK VEXAS interest group. It was an extremely important opportunity for me to learn about the VEXAS syndrome, a recently described adult-onset monogenic autoinflammatory disease.

During the second half of my observership which I spent at the RVI, I was supervised by Dr Catherine Stroud. The visit to the RVI enabled me to spend constructive time at their IEI and allergy clinics and allergy daily unit which they use to test drug allergies. I had the opportunity to join their MDT held once weekly where the interesting and complex patients were discussed, but also to join the BMT clinic where adult patients with IEIs are evaluated for BMT. Thanks to the experienced and enthusiastic team from the department, there is a very pleasant and inspiring working atmosphere.

The visit to the both hospitals was an exceptional opportunity to meet all previously mentioned goals. This was a fantastic opportunity to improve knowledge, and skills, exchange experience, and expand the scientific network.

Everyone who aims to apply for the funds covering the cost of clinical observership should have clear ideas what is the main aspects (research, clinical) and which are the specific skills they want to improve. From my perspective, it was a great chance to learn from leading experts in the field of IEI and AD, to establish new contacts, and to make plans for future collaborations. It should be kept in mind that the Lilic-Abinun Foundation aims to support a knowledge exchange between Newcastle (and even more cities from the north-eastern part of the UK) and Serbia, in both directions. My visit to the UK where I met great colleagues made an excellent basis for discussing potential projects, and collaborations in organizing bilateral meetings. So, it is very important to be proactive in discussing and arranging reciprocal collaborations with your home institutions!

Sincerely Yours,

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