

EAU-JUA International Academic Exchange Programme

Exchange visit inspires young Japanese urologists



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observed two cases of robot-assisted radical prostatectomy (RARP). It was an exciting and wonderful experience for us to learn excellent and unique surgical techniques performed by the Martini-Klinik team. We also had a wonderful time with the Martini-Klinik staff members including during lunches and dinners, and we enjoyed the sightseeing in Hamburg. We truly appreciate the heartwarming welcome by Prof. Tilki and her colleagues.



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Skane University Hospital (14-15 March)

We visited Skane University Hospital in Malmö from March 14 to 15. Prior to this visit hospital, we had dinner with Prof. A.S. Bjartell and his colleague at Sky Bar on 13 March. Unfortunately, the fog was so dense that we couldn't see anything at the beginning, but finally in the evening the fog lifted and we have had a beautiful night. In live surgery, we observed advanced penile implants and many basic and clinical lectures



With Prof. Fredrik Liedberg



2018 EAU/JUA International Academic Exchange Programme members

on stone management, bladder, prostate and penile cancers at Skane University Hospital. In particular, we had an interesting seminar on the molecular classification of bladder cancer led by Prof. Liedberg. These lectures were wonderful and inspired us to work harder in both clinical setting and basic research. The lectures on operative procedure prior to the live surgery enabled us to better understand the live surgery. We are also thankful for the generous and excellent dinner hosted by Prof. A.S. Bjartell and his wife on 14 March.

33rd Annual EAU Congress (16-20 March)

We participated in the 33rd Annual EAU Congress (EAU18) at Copenhagen. The congress had many plenary, oral and poster sessions, and we acquired many updates and information. One of us also had the opportunity to present during the prostate poster session and join the discussions with doctors and researchers from many countries. We met friends

from Germany and Switzerland whom we previously met in Canada. Our experience of the poster sessions were inspiring, giving us added motivation in our own work.

We were also invited to the EAU President's & International Friendship Dinner held on March 18 at the Copenhagen City Hall. And it was a wonderful moment when we received the certificate of participation on stage. We will never forget the exciting night and warm hospitality.

We met a lot of people and experienced so much during this Exchange Programme. We also had a wonderful time with three Taiwanese exchange fellows. It was important for us to learn not only about novel findings and excellent procedures in urology but also the cultures of Scandinavian countries. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of all EAU and JUA members who organized this Exchange Programme – truly a memorable and life-changing experience for us!



With A.S. Bjartell and fellows from Taiwan

Our first visit was Hamburg and Prof. Tilki and members of the Martini-Klinik team welcomed us during our stay from March 10 to 13, 2018. The Prostate Cancer Center of Martini-Klinik is one of the most famous hospitals for treating prostate cancer with patients from all over the world.

More than 2,000 patients annually are treated with radical prostatectomy, and the number of cases is the highest in the world. Currently, most cases of radical prostatectomy in the Martini-Klinik are performed with robotic assistance. During this period, we

Taiwanese urologists gain fresh insights on European urology



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observed the robotic RRP performed by Prof. Graefen. The surgical techniques we saw were impressive, particularly the whole-mount frozen section technique. We learned that real-time whole-gland frozen section is a very effective method to ensure either the surgical margin or neurovascular bundle preservation, as well as the pre-docking special wound setting for intra-operative retrieval of the prostate gland. The real-time whole-gland frozen section requires close cooperation of the pathologist and the urologist. We also learned new insights on apex irrigation and urethral sphincter preservation.



Taiwanese delegates at the EAU18 Congress in Copenhagen

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Thanks to the European Association of Urology (EAU) and Taiwan Urology Association, we had the chance to join the 10-day European academic trip. It was one of the most memorable professional experiences we ever had, and we were impressed by the warm welcome from the EAU organisers and our friends in Germany and Sweden, especially Profs. Graefen and Bjartell.

Martini Klinik

After a 20-hour journey, we finally arrived in Hamburg where Prof. Tilki and her staff welcomed us at the Martini Klinik. The Martini Klinik is the biggest prostate cancer center in Europe, and the number of radical prostatectomy it performed in a year is more than the total cases at Mayo Clinic and Cleveland Clinic in United States. There are four Da Vinci robotic systems and 11 prostate cancer specialists in the hospital. Each physician has his own field of expertise. At the Martini Klinik we learned about MRI fusion-guided prostate biopsy, with techniques that have not yet been developed in Taiwan. We also

Martini Klinik's centralised faculty system and efforts to improve clinical outcomes are some of the reasons why this institute has earned a solid reputation. The work environment is liberal and the doctors impressed us with their competence and dedication. We thank Profs. Graefen and Tilki and the fellows in Martini Klinik, Susan, Raisa and Laurence, for their hospitality.

Aside from introducing us to Hamburg, Prof. Tilki and Prof. Graefen also planned a sight-seeing tour on the second day which showed us German hospitality and prepared us for the rest of the academic tour.

We then took a train trip to Rubbeck University and visited Prof. Mersburger. He took us to the wards, clinics and laboratories, and briefed us on their management system.

Off to Sweden

After a three-day stay in Germany, we left for Denmark where we took a bus to Malmö. In Sweden, Prof. Bjartell arranged an intensive course for us. This not only gave us an in-depth overview of the work being done in Lund University, but also gave us a glimpse into the university's basic research activities, which inspired me to think about future prospects in urology.

At Lund University, we joined the daily morning meetings of the Urology Department and experienced the Swedish practical approach. Government policies require that certain diseases can only be treated in specific centres. This makes the Lund University Hospital very special in rare areas, such as prostate, bladder, and penile cancers. Prof. Bjartell also introduced us to the very impressive basic research facilities in prostate cancer, which combine both clinical and translational aspects. Using unique facilities such as special animal image and bone scan, they can do more studies on either functional or anatomical models.

Prof. Bjartell's modesty even though he is a great scholar and doctor and despite all his outstanding achievements, makes him a role model. A cardiology professor also briefed us on the medical history of Sweden, which was very informative and enlightening.

Annual EAU Congress

It was also our first time to participate in the five-day Annual EAU Congress in Copenhagen, an impressive event that offered so much new information, ranging from clinical and basic research, novel surgical advances, summary and comparison of new trials, developments in technical equipment, among many others. In the live surgeries we witnessed excellent surgical skills.

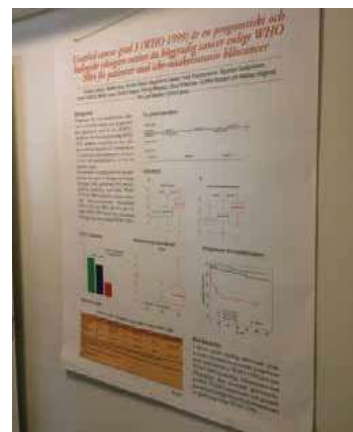
There were also many Taiwanese urologists attending the EAU Congress. It seems the EAU has a more international tradition and communication style among the urological associations.

We were honored to be invited to the Friendship Dinner where we again met Profs. Bjartell, Tilki, and our co-exchange fellows from Japan. It was an inspiring evening where we experienced the dynamics of the urological community. The sense of community has certainly inspired us to work harder.

Certainly, the EAU Congress in Copenhagen was a wonderful five-day event marked by knowledge exchanges and memorable friendship. This European journey will remain a memorable experience that we will always cherish. For this amazing experience, our sincere thanks to the EAU.

We also wish to express our appreciation to Prof. Chapple. He even came to Taiwan to give a lecture on the highlights of EAU18 after the annual conference!

Finally, we would like to thank the coordinator at the EAU Office, Ms. Terberg, who arranged such a great tour for us. This trip really broadened our horizons and enriched our minds. This was an unforgettable journey, and we got a lot of inspiration from all the people we have met. Thank you very much!



Research poster on NMIBC by the Lund Bladder Cancer Group



Dinner with Prof. Graefen and his team



Prof. Tilki (second from left) with fellows Dr. Chang, Dr. Hu and Dr. Wei