

Wonderful experience for Taiwanese and Japanese urologists in Spain



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We were selected as members of the EAU-JUA/TUA International Academic Exchange Programme and the time we spent in Spain from 9 to 19 March 2019 was like a dream come true. Below you will find an overview of our exciting trip.

Royal Palace

The day after arrival, the Japanese and Taiwanese groups went out for sightseeing at the Royal Palace and historic Madrid city centre, blessed with fine weather. It is always a good start to know the people by knowing their history. At night, we had a dinner with Prof. L. Martínez-Piñero and his colleagues. The staff was very easy-going and we got to know each other during dinner.

On Monday 11 March, Prof. M. Alvarez Maestro kindly picked us up and took us to the Department of Urology of La Paz University Hospital, which was located in the most modern area of Madrid. During these two days, we observed two urethroplasties and a laparoscopic radical prostatectomy nicely performed by Professor Martínez-Piñero, a PCNL by Dr. Cansino in a heavily-operated kidney, and a rapid HoLEP for a 250g prostate by Dr. Peret-Carral. The latter procedure can also be seen on YouTube. The urethroplasties were performed in two stages for Lichen sclerosis, which is quite rare in Asian countries.

Urethral reconstruction

Furthermore, we not only observed urethral reconstruction using buccal mucosal graft in a patient who had urethral stricture or fistula due to post-hypospadias surgery, but also listened to a detailed lecture. In addition, we were given a lecture on the best BCG dose which was derived from the CUETO (Club Urológico Español de Tratamientos Oncológicos) trials. After observation of other endourological surgeries, we had lunch with members of the La Paz University Hospital.

La Paz University Hospital

On Tuesday 12th March, Prof. J. Gómez Rivas kindly picked us up early and took us to La Paz University Hospital. After the impressive lecture about ICG for the detection of sentinel lymph nodes in prostate cancer by Prof. L. Martínez-Piñero, we actually observed its excellent technique (Figure 1). Further, Prof. D. M. Carrion gave us a lecture about PCNL. He presented his interesting technique of PCNL and showed it in the OR. We promised the La Paz urology members to meet again at EAU Annual Congress in Barcelona.



Fellows meeting with Dr. Palou at the Fundació Puigvert

Barcelona's Sagrada Família

We were so excited to find that the accommodation was located in a fantastic place next to the Sagrada Família and close to Fundació Puigvert!

On Wednesday 13 March, Ms. Lluïsa Ponsa took us to the Fundació Puigvert next to the Hospital de Sant Pau, which is included in the World Heritage List. Dr. Joan Palou and Dr. Alberto Breda gave us an overview about Fundació Puigvert which is a historical hospital specialised in urology and nephrology. Then we took some photos together (Figure 2). We moved to the operating room, where we observed many kinds of operations; robotic prostatectomy with lymph node dissection; endourological surgery for ureteroileal anastomotic stricture; open cystectomy for advance bladder cancer; deceased-donor renal transplantation. After lunch with the professors and young urologists, the professors gave us very practical lectures. The most impressive lectures were "Tips and Tricks in Prostate Cancer Surgery" by Prof. J. Palou, and "Cryotherapy in Prostate Cancer" by Prof. Breda. We got some new

thoughts on our clinical practice by discussing with the speakers.

Hospital de Sant Pau tour

At the end of the visit, we participated in the Hospital de Sant Pau guided tour which was really a wonderful experience. We were overwhelmed, not only by the symmetry and beauty of the modern design but also by the truly progressive health care principles. This complex demonstrates the best of the "form follows function" design principle in terms of patient care. We walked around in the city of Barcelona, and visited the Sagrada Família, Park Guell and Casa Vicens.

Interesting lectures

On Thursday 14 March, we walked to the Fundació Puigvert. We heard many interesting lectures: Endourology in UTUC by Prof. A. Breda; Analysing data of T1G3 bladder cancer by Prof. F. Pisano; Clinical cases in partial nephrectomy by Prof. A. Breda; Penis: sentinel node and reconstructive surgery by Prof. J.M. Gaya; Complications in radical cystectomy: diagnose and solve! by Prof. O. Rodriguez; Medical treatment in metastatic kidney cancer: where are we? by Prof. P. Maroto; Active surveillance: concept, indications and results by Prof. F. Sanguedolce.

EAU Annual Congress

On Friday 15 March, the EAU Annual Congress opened and urologists from all over the world gathered in Barcelona. Until Monday 19 March, we learned many things we have not learnt in Taiwan or Japan, for example how to speak in presentation; how to answer questions; how to communicate with foreign doctors.

In various sessions we could see the cutting-edge knowledge and techniques, advances in clinical and basic research, as well as fantastic innovations in surgical skills. Because there were so many different interesting topics held at the same time, we had a lot on our plate. Fortunately, we could use webcast on Uroweb to catch every important message from the Annual Congress. These precious experiences inspired us not only in better clinical practice but also in research.

International Friendship Dinner

On Sunday 17 March, the International Friendship Dinner was held at a traditional restaurant in Barcelona. Then the chairman presented us with awards of the Exchange Programme. There, we met Prof. L. Martínez-Piñero, Prof. M. Alvarez Maestro, Prof. J. Gómez Rivas and Prof. J. Palou again, and we



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expressed our thanks to them. Also, we met the president of JUA, Prof. M. Fujisawa and talked about the fantastic activities of the EAU (Figure 3).

Tuesday 19 March was the day we had to leave and go back home. We said goodbye to each other at the hotel and promised to stay in touch.

We would like to thank the EAU, TUA and JUA, which set up such a fantastic and perfect programme. And we especially appreciate the efforts made by Prof. L. Martínez-Piñero in La Paz University Hospital, Prof. J. Palou in Fundació Puigvert, their colleagues and secretaries. Through this programme in Spain we learned so much that will absolutely be useful in our basic/clinical skills.



Prof. M. Fujisawa, JUA President, with Drs. Wada and Matsumoto at the International Friendship Dinner

Unique networking opportunity for European and Asian urologists



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The La Paz University Hospital, Urology Department in Madrid (ES) had the opportunity to welcome the participants of the 2019 Japanese and Taiwanese Urological Association - EAU Exchange Programme, which consisted of a 2-day educational experience. The programme started at the urology department with a warm welcome from Dr. Martínez-Piñero, staff members and residents.

We had the opportunity of meeting with Dr. Po-Fan Hsieh, Dr. Yu-Hua Fan, Dr. Po-Ming Chow, Dr. Ryuji Matsumoto and Dr. Koichiro Wada. They could listen to lectures about urethral reconstruction surgical techniques and PCNL techniques given by Dr. Martínez-Piñero and Dr. Cansino, respectively. They observed several urological surgeries, including a laparoscopic radical prostatectomy, urethroplasties,

RIRS and hOLEP, performed by Dr. Martínez-Piñero, Dr. Cansino and Dr. Perez-Carral.

They had lunch with some residents and staff members, after which they visited the main city attractions and the Bernabeu museum stadium. They had dinner with Dr. Martínez-Piñero, Dr. Cansino, Dr. Perez Carral, other staff members and residents. The visitors explained how the Japanese and Taiwanese medical systems work. It was a wonderful occasion for us to learn about the main energy sources used in endourology, urological techniques and facilities available in prestigious Asian hospitals.

I think this was a unique opportunity for our European residents and young urologists to network with their Japanese and Taiwanese colleagues.

For further information on applying for the 2020 Japanese Tour please visit: www.uroweb.org/exchange-japan



Watching the excellent sentinel lymph node detection technique in PCa of Prof. Martínez Piñero

