

ICS Scholarship Report – Miriam Aitken Koschorke

Fellowship & Scholarship	Pfizer Research Scholarship 2015
Background and current work	My name is Miriam Aitken Koschorke, I am a Brazilian Urologist and work at the University Hospital Pedro Ernesto, Rio de Janeiro.
Location and site	<p>My research Scholarship took place with Ass. Prof. Thomas M. Kessler, MD, head of Neuro-Urology, at the Spinal Cord Injury Center & Research, University of Zürich, Balgrist University Hospital, Zürich, Switzerland.</p> <p>I chose this host because it is an internationally well-known Neuro-Urology research centre with numerous publications done by Ass. Prof. Kessler and his team. I am very honored that he gave me so much support and attention since I mentioned my wish to do this scholarship. He accepted my application and provided me an excellent opportunity to learn more about research in Neuro-Urology.</p>
Expectations and Learning Objectives	My intentions were to expand my knowledge in Neuro-Urology, a field of my special interest. Neuro-Urology is growing in importance, and in part, this effort belongs to the development of new research evidence.
Specific details of learning and activities whilst on placement	<p>I stayed more than one month at the Balgrist University Hospital and was able to participate in three research projects for that I am very grateful. One was a systematic review about normal urodynamic pattern in rodents, an ambitious study with the inclusion and revision of more than 1000 articles. The aim was to standardise existing terminology, thus establishing normal urodynamic values in rodents. It has the potential to become a classic in the field. I participated in every step of the project, being able to learn a lot about the methodology of systematic reviews.</p> <p>The second study was an analysis of urodynamic outcomes of neurological patients undergoing intradetrusor onabotulinumtoxinA injections for treating neurogenic detrusor overactivity incontinence at the Balgrist University Hospital, Switzerland. I got the opportunity to write the article and learn about the whole process, from writing until submission for publication.</p>

	<p>The third research project that I was involved was about the predictive value of serum creatinine for renal failure in patients with spinal cord injury. I was responsible for the analysis of the outcomes and could see how the results are achieved using different statistical programs.</p>
Conclusion	<p>I have to admit that all my expectations were greatly exceeded and that my experiences were much richer than I could have ever imagined. With the knowledge gained during my stay in Zurich, I want to develop new projects establishing scientific bridges between the two countries. I also intent to use this experience in the future toward my doctorate in this area.</p> <p>I strongly recommend a research scholarship. My professional career has moved a big step forward thanks to the initiative and vision of ICS and Pfizer. Without their generous financial support, this would not have been possible! I warmly thank all the people that helped and supported me during my stay in Zürich. My special thanks go to Ass. Prof. Thomas M. Kessler for his teaching and supervision making my fellowship a great success. Many thanks!</p>



Photo 1: Balgrist Research Campus



Photo 2: Balgrist Research Campus



Photo 3: Neuro-Urology made easy: Jure Tonic, Ulrich Mehnert, Thomas M. Kessler, Miriam Koschorke, Mirjam Bywater