

## **2017 Pfizer Fellowship - Alejandro Mercado-Campero**

I am a former resident and current junior consultant urologist working at the University of Chile Clinical Hospital in Santiago, Chile. I also perform my private practice at Clinica Las Condes in the same city. I have a general urology practice with a special interest in the management of lower urinary tract symptoms, neuro-urology, female, functional and reconstructive urology. I also have a special interest in both basic and clinical research. I have recently been awarded a PhD degree in medical sciences by the University of Chile, but most of my experimental work was completed at University of York (UK).

I undertook a clinical fellowship at the Functional Restorative and Female Urology Unit at the University College of London Hospital at Westmoreland Street from the 4<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2017. I contacted this host centre due to the high volume and highly specialised tertiary service, renowned both in the UK and internationally in the field of neuro-urology, functional, female and reconstructive urology. Considering my personal interests, this was the perfect place to undertake a fellowship. I contacted Mr. Jeremy Ockrim, who from the very first moment, was very welcoming and immediately accepted to host my fellowship. He rapidly introduced me to the rest of the team of consultants and registrars, so that I could take advantage of all their knowledge and experience during my short stay. It was a great pleasure for me to share with this group, as they were all very kind and thoughtful, providing a very friendly atmosphere for learning. They were extremely generous in sharing their knowledge and they do a great job as a team, which is something that I would really like to highlight.

My expectation about this fellowship was to be exposed to a highly specialised tertiary service to observe, in a short time (4 weeks), a number of cases that otherwise I would see only sporadically in my practice: I mean patients with refractory overactive bladder, complex stress urinary incontinence, urinary tract fistulae, urethral diverticulae/stricture, etc. Also, to observe surgical procedures which are infrequent to observe in my country, like sacral neuromodulation, bladder augmentation, artificial urinary sphincters, male slings, etc. I wanted to learn the concepts about the management of these conditions and procedures, as well as learning surgical tips. As this was a fellowship, I did not expect to gain surgical skills, but by observing I think this was in fact possible.

During my fellowship I was able to join the different members of the team in activities such as outpatient clinics, video-urodynamic sessions, multi-disciplinary team meetings and surgeries. I was able to observe most of what I expected, especially with regards to surgical cases: fascial slings for stress urinary incontinence (SUI), male slings for SUI, urethroplasties, vesico-vaginal fistulae repairs, artificial urinary sphincters implantations in both male and women, urethral diverticulectomies with Martius flap, colposuspensions, cystectomy and neobladder formation, ileal ureter interposition, sacral neuromodulation, intradetrusor Botox injections, etc. I was able to observe patient's first appointments at the clinic and how they were to be studied and managed. I was also able to observe the long-term results with patients that came for follow-up visits. This gave me a chance to familiarise myself with the treatment of patients at almost every stage. It was also very educative to observe how the unit works as a multidisciplinary team, in which everyone played a very important role. Finally, in my last day of my fellowship, I was able to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> UCLH Botulinum Toxin A Service Optimisation Masterclass, which was also very educative for me and gave me lots of ideas to transfer back to my centre of origin.

This fellowship has significantly contributed to my knowledge in the field of neurourology, functional, female and reconstructive urology. I did not have much exposure to these kind of cases during my training and it was great to observe so many cases in such a brief period of time. There is a lot more to do in Chile to reach the standard of care in this field and it is my intention to contribute to improve it, with special consideration of the quality of life of these patients. I also expect to keep a long-term collaboration with UCLH, in both clinical and research activities. I strongly recommend this unit for future fellows.

### Photos



**University College Hospital at  
Westmoreland Street**



**University College Hospital  
Entrance Hall**



**Multi-disciplinary team meeting  
at University College Hospital**



**Mr. Jeremy Ockrim debriefing  
a surgical case.**



**Ms. Tamsin Greenwell leading a surgical case assisted by Prof. Anthony Mundy.**



**Photo with the team after the 2nd UCLH "Botulinum Toxin a" Service Optimisation Masterclass. Left to right: Mr. Jeremy Ockrim, Ms. Tamsin Greenwell, Mr. Alejandro Mercado (me), Mrs. Mahreen Pakzad & Mr. Rizwan Hamid.**