

To: NREF Board, 5550 Meadowbrook Drive, Rolling Meadows, IL, 60008
Date: 10/31/2018
Subject: CV Section Travelling Fellowship

Dear NREF Board of Directors

It is with great appreciation that I write to you in thanks for the incredible opportunity recently provided to me through the "Medtronic Joint Section Cerebrovascular Travelling Fellowship". This was a wonderful and inspiring experience that has and will affect me in many positive ways into the future.

I chose to work with Jean Raymond, one of the true pioneers in both technical, scientific, and ethical practice of Interventional Neuroradiology/ Endovascular Neurosurgery at the Centre Hospitalier de Universite de Montreal. In a great stroke of fortune, Professor Raymond was hosting the biennial international AVM conference in Montreal, so I was able to attend this conference prior to my fellowship for an even more in depth experience.

During the AVM conference, I witnessed the practical side of promoting clinical trials in innovative techniques. Immediately following the conference, I began my fellowship time. I was able to observe several masterfully executed balloon remodeling aneurysm treatments, but more importantly, I got a very good understanding of how pragmatic trials can be integrated into clinical care for patients with complex neurovascular disorders. I saw several AVM patients randomized into a new study focusing on transvenous embolization, I saw several aneurysm patients randomized in trials of clipping versus coiling and flow diversion versus coiling. I was inspired by the commitment to providing the best validated treatments and in cases of uncertainty, being willing to randomize patients to both protect them from potential harm and to generate better data in our field.

I was very fortunate to have time with both Professor Raymond and his extremely experienced partners to discuss the steps necessary to initiate such a care trial and have begun the process to attempt to replicate such a trial at our institution, partnering with the CHUM and others in the future.

In summary, this was an incredibly important experience and without the support of the NREF CV Section Fellowship, I do not believe that I would have been able to independently arrange such an experience. After this initial visit, I am now planning both on collaborating further in the future as well as hopefully reciprocal visits to our institution.

Merci!



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