



Travel Grant Report Form

Name and origin of applicants

Kristine Kloster-Jensen, Oslo University Hospital Transplantation surgery, Norway

Purpose granted

To visit Professor Camillo Ricordi and his colleagues at the Diabetes research Institute and Cell Transplant Center at Miami University, Florida, USA for one week. We believe this will lead to increased knowledge of clinical islets transplantation and collaboration projects for our institution.

Amount granted

20.000,- DKK

Time and place of visit

October 21-29, 2011. The Diabetes Research Institute at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami Florida USA

Report

The Diabetes Research Institute (DRI) is a center of excellence at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine and is recognized, as a world leader in cure-focused research. This was the goal for my visit to Miami, Florida. Dr. Camillo Ricordi showed me around at the DRI and also introduced me to all the different areas of expertise that they have at this center. The institute with its 6 floors covers most aspects of Diabetes health and research. They have a dedicated staff for everything from dietetic schooling to islet transplantation. The DRI has contributed significantly to the field of diabetes research and also developed many of the devices and techniques that are used in islet transplantation today. One important issue for this center is to transform the knowledge and results obtained in the lab into treatment and cure for the patients. They have several bridge research projects within cell biology and immunology in order to develop new cell-based therapies to restore insulin production. Beside this they also do clinical trials as well as experimental studies using animal models. During my stay I had the possibility to participated in the process of a human islet isolation, explore the research lab facilities and

got to participate in sessions of scientific discussions regarding among other things, a new islet transplantation site that had been tested out in primates. Furthermore, I was welcome to see their training facilities and talking to the staff members at the different areas of the institute. The institute is committed to finding a cure for those who are living with the disease diabetes in the fastest possible way by collaboration with researcher all over the word. In conclusion with this spirit I met other researcher that was having projects together (Berggren PO, Karolinska University Hospital), and I was also invited to come there for longer visit, or initiating new research ideas and projects.

Evaluation

I was privileged to see a very well functioning and highly active research center where I got the possibility to discuss research findings with highly qualified colleagues. I found their way of organizing the medical condition Diabetes very attractive. Gathering everything concerning diabetes and diabetes related problems in one place seemed to me as a very effective as well as inspiring way of keeping focus. In the center there was a facility area, where all their potential islet transplantation patients were invited to spend one week in a course on nutrition and dietetics awareness. This seems like a very good idé that I would like for our institute to try out. According to d. Ricordi they avoided putting about 50% of the patients on the transplantation list this way. In all felt my stay in Miami broadened my horizon and increased my knowledge of clinical islets transplantation. It also made me think outside the box and lift focus to include future collaboration projects with different institutes.
