



Travel Grant Report

Name and origin of applicants

Sini Puputti, Helsinki University Hospital, Finland, Transplant Coordinator

Linda Ulenius, Helsinki University Hospital, Finland, Physiotherapist

Purpose granted

Our purpose was to visit Toronto General Hospital in Canada to observe and learn from Transplant Coordinators and Physiotherapists working there. We especially focused on the following:

- Evaluation of Ltx candidates
 - Registration of patient data and filing systems
 - Organ donation and EVLP
 - Support, follow up and rehabilitation before and after transplant
 - Observe the full assessment of Ltx patient, from evaluation to transplant follow-up.
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Amount granted

12,500 DKK

Time and place of visit

20th – 28th of April 2018 Toronto General Hospital in Canada

Report

Our visit to Toronto met our goals in every way. We started our visit with our Finnish surgeon, who is currently working in Toronto. On the first day, he gave us a tour around the hospital. We visited the wards, ICU and outpatient clinics.

We met with incredibly friendly and experienced transplant coordinators. Toronto has transplant coordinators working in organ donation, pre- and postoperative outpatient clinic and even as a discharge coordinator. We were able to meet them all except the discharge coordinator. There's a lot of similarities in transplant coordinators work in both countries.

Toronto General Hospital has extremely active and successful physiotherapy and rehabilitation program. We had a chance to meet and observe physiotherapist working with LTx candidates and recipients from evaluation to transplant follow-up. We were able to meet physiotherapists working in the out-patient clinic, ICU and on the wards. Physiotherapists also do excellent clinical research and it was impressive to see how they combine research with clinical work.

One of the most interesting part of our visit was to be able to see EVLP (Ex-vivo lung perfusion) in action. That is one thing we don't have in Finland yet, but after seeing EVLP working, we like to hope to have one in Finland in near future. Maybe that would be one way to increase the number of lung transplantations.

We were also able to observe DCD lung donation, even though donation never activated. It was still interesting to see main principals of DCD lung donation.

Evaluation

It was an incredible experience to meet other transplant coordinators and physiotherapist doing the same work as we do. We enjoyed seeing the things we do the same way but also the things we do differently.

Toronto has a good lung transplant program and we have a long list of things to take home and consider improving our care. For example, they have a systematic and active rehabilitation program before and after lung transplant. That is something we currently don't have. Since our visit in Toronto we have made plans to rearrange our rehabilitation.

We travelled home with a feeling that we are good, but can be even better at our center. One thing that is working better in Finland are electronic patient records and digital services. People in Toronto were interested in our Virtual hospital and it's eHealth services.

We would like to thank Antti Nykänen and Jussi Tikkanen for organizing our visit and the all the other staff members that took the time to tell us about their work. We also want to thank Scandiatransplant for the Travel Sponsorship Grant - that made this visit possible.
