

Michael E. Neufeld MEMF-NA Fellowship Report

My Hip Society / M. E. Müller Foundation of North America European Fellowship was an experience of a lifetime.

The first arm of my fellowship was spent at the ENDO-Klinik in Hamburg, Germany. My preceptors were Prof. Thorsten Gehrke & Dr. Mustafa Citak (research and fellowship director). The ENDO-Klinik a world-renowned orthopaedic institution and the birthplace of the single-stage exchange for periprosthetic infection (PJI) in hip and knee replacements. I spent most of my time at the ENDO-Klinik learning the advanced surgical and multidisciplinary care of PJI.

They are highly specialized in the evaluation and management of PJI. I spent 3-4 days a week in the daily septic OR observing and assisting on revisions for PJI, over which 90% were single-stage exchange. I learned advanced surgical techniques and protocols from their subspecialized septic surgeons including Dr. Stephan Luck & Dr. Volken Jonen (Heads of PJI Unit). I found their multidisciplinary PJI team, protocols, and weekly rounds invaluable. I also had the honour of attending their daily morning rounds.

Additionally, on days I was not in the septic OR I was able to observe and assist on complex primary and revision hip and knee replacements.

I had the opportunity to collaborate on several research projects under the direction of Dr. Citak. These projects all focussed on PJI and one-stage exchange and have resulted in multiple publications. The relationships that I developed will be lifelong and I plan on continued collaboration in the future.

I was not able to travel or have family visit due the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions during my time in Hamburg, but luckily this had little effect on my clinical exposure. However, I was unable to pursue the second arm of the fellowship with the PJI team in London, UK (Preceptor Prof. Fares Haddad) due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

I am very grateful to the MEMF-NA for sponsoring me for this fellowship and I would highly recommend this fellowship.