

ESPGHAN Head Office
c/o Vienna Medical Academy
Alser Str. 3 1090 Vienna, Austria

Amsterdam, 23th of May 2017

Dear all,

As previously arranged, I spent 4 months, from January to April 2017 at the Women's and Children's Hospital and Flinder's University in Adelaide, Australia, supervised by Dr. Taher Omari as a part of my PhD in the field of pediatric gastroesophageal motility disorders.

During my stay, I focused on novel techniques for the assessment and interpretation of esophageal and pharyngeal high-resolution impedance manometry (HRIM) recordings. Applying these techniques, I worked on the analysis of gut motility and physiology of a cohort of morbidly obese adolescents that underwent laparoscopic gastric band placement. Another, still ongoing project, consists of the validation of an online, interactive portal for the analysis of pharyngeal HRIM recordings which will hopefully soon be available for clinical practice. This visit created the opportunity for presenting my research and discuss practices between different countries and centers, identifying common grounds and learning about country-specific references and guidelines. Apart from my research work, I also participated in the ward rounds and motility unit at the pediatric gastroenterology, nutrition and hepatology department.

It was a great experience because colleagues from both the Women's and Children's Hospital and Flinder's University unselfishly shared their knowledge with me. The mature and skilled mentors and their excellent ability to teach, mainly Dr. Omari and Dr. Charles Cock, made my task easier in a professional but also a personal point of view. This placement experience was extremely valuable, not only for my current research and clinical interests, but also for future collaborations.

I would like to thank ESPGHAN for the International Exchange Program Grant. Without this financial support my visit to Adelaide would not have been possible. The grant was used to cover my travel expenses (plane tickets from Amsterdam to Adelaide as well as local travel costs).

Yours sincerely,

Maartje Singendonk