

GABRIELA MAVRODIN , ROMANIA - 2019 ESO-EONS Clinical Fellowship for Cancer Nurses  
The best professionally experience of my life, a dream come true!

My name is Gabriela Mavrodin. I am Individual Member of European Oncology Nursing Society from 2016. I am specialized as Pediatric Nurse for 35 years and for almost 9 years I am working as Head Nurse at Pediatric Oncology and Hematology (Chemotherapy) Unit in Maria Sklodowska Curie Emergency Children Hospital from capital of Romania, Bucharest.

As an oncology nurse coming from a middle income country, I have to face, in my years of experience, to big challenges and a lot bad changes (ex: 25% cut of nurse salary in 2010) which influence negatively both healthcare delivery and the nursing profession. One of the biggest challenge is migration of nurses to other European high income countries (ex: Italy, UK), but also to private hospitals and now from private to state hospitals. Another challenge is education for oncology nurses.

I make from this last challenge, my projects which is: Education, Specialization and Regulation standards of cancer nurses, recognition of their importance in decision making, support the development of the profession by creating a climate of cooperation, trustworthy, secure workplaces and building connections with other cancer nurses from Europe.

For this reason I apply for the 2019 ESO-EONS Clinical Fellowship for Cancer Nurses, which it was a unique and wonderful chance to have an observer-ship experience at an accredited European Cancer Centre: European Institute of Oncology, in Milan, Italy, where my personal goals for professional development would help me to provide better cancer care to our patients.

The Fellowship was a great opportunity to learn how to change my working environment, become a good leader for my staff, learn how to translate my vision into practice and how my nurse colleagues to be leaders at the bedside, to improve oncology nursing care in our Unit. Also gave me the opportunity to share the importance of advanced nursing cancer care practice, research, management and bring back ideas to grow up my team. Our department of pediatric oncology it will be extended in 1 year, from 31 to 41 beds (maybe more) in a new oncology children hospital, when we will need to have new and well-trained oncology nurses.

I choose also this European Cancer Centre because of my Case presented at ESO-EONS Masterclass 2017 (16-years-old adolescent with ovarian tumor have the second surgical opinion in IEO) and because Italy it is the first country from Europe where Romanian nurses are migrated, maybe because our cultures and languages are so similar.

I start my Fellowship Training Program in IEO in 1 October 2019 with visit in Research Department, which is very well developed, high professional level, maybe the first in Italy. I learn about the development of evidence-based practice guidelines, the uniqueness of each oncology patient and how to investigate nursing sensitive outcomes in those patients, to know what personalized medicine means in practice, to learn about the future drugs in cancer, their side effects, how to prevent or treat them. I build connections with nurses from IEO that could provide the evidence and knowledge to improve the cancer nursing care and the research in future, in my country, Romania.

My tutor for entire 1 month period it was Claudia Passoni for which I want to express my deep appreciation and the gratitude, who helped, supported me every time is needed and also, because her professional diplomacy, her continuous and friendly presence, allows me to learn to be a good leader for

my nurse colleagues, as she is for sure, in all context.(photo with Claudia Passoni and her research team)



As it say: "Sometimes, an image can make more than 1000 words".

Next visit it was at Day Hospital where I stay a week from 7 to 11 October 2019, every day with other nurse and I saw, day by day, nursing clinical practice: appointment, acceptance , evaluation ,assessments ,blood samples, clinical examination, premedication and cytostatic treatments, nursing plans, letter for nurses. Acceptance in Unit it is on line, all procedures making by nurses is with electronic signature, one patient every 30 minutes for one nurse, through a good management of appointments and timing, an understanding of the difference that nurses make following the primary nursing model of care. In Romania we have a motto: Theory like theory, but to see and put in practice is everything. In 17 October 2019 , I saw PICC, PORT, and MIDLINE management, insertion of a PICC and a MIDLINE with help of Alessio Piredda, Nurse Coordinator of PICK Team.( photo with Alessio )



Next visit it was at Chemotherapy Oncology Unit where I stay also one week from 14 to 18 October 2019. I saw what primary nurse do in clinical practice, criteria for the distribution of nurses for patients, criteria for distribution of patients on rooms after colors and severity of the case.

On 19 October 2019 I was at 2 case presentation as a special guest, courses for nurses with credits for continuous education.

On 22 October I was at courses for students , future nurses with Chiara Pari, senology research nurse.

( photo in nursing room from Chemotherapy Unit with Ilaria , Teresa, Fabio)



Next visit It was on 25 October 2019 in radiotherapy department and I saw all new machine for the radiotherapy treatments for all type off cancers and nursing care treatments for burns after exposure at radiation.



One day I was in a short visit at Hematology Unit after I saw a bone marrow biopsy. (photo with head nurse from Hematology and her team.)



One day I was also in a short visit in Pharmacy and with help of chief pharmacist I saw where are prepared cytostatic treatments with the most performant robot made in Italy, with close circuits rooms and systems. All infusion dispensers are with Closed System Transfer Devices (CSTDs) for cytotoxic drug administration -safety for patients and for nurses.

I want to thank to all nurses (day hospital, chemotherapy unit, hematology, radiotherapy and research) from IEO who helped me to understand better all the issues involved in the running of a Successful Cancer Unit. I will say their names: Teresa, Fabio, Sara, Davide, Alessandra, Chiara, Sarah-Jayne, Giorgia , Ada, Michela, Andrea, Ilaria and many others.

2019 ESO-EONS Clinical Fellowship for Cancer Nurses training advance my practice in a good way because updates my knowledge, improve my communications skills and I learn how to generate performance in my team. I believe it is important that the work of oncology nurses it is recognized, locally and globally. I make my experiences and skills available to create the same opportunities for current and future oncology nurses through a good leadership. I hope nurses will remain in Romania and change the health care system in one of the best through a good education of oncology nurses, improvements in some aspect of cancer control that would requires changes, update protocols and procedures. I believe that I take back home a good overview of all the issues involved in the running of a

Successful Cancer Unit. I was inspired and I like very much motto put at the Entrance of IEO: “Io non temo le sfide” and translation : “I am not afraid of challenges” ( photo with Dr. Alessandra Milani and her team from University of Milan where I stay one day on 29 October 2019 and I saw how the students are evaluated in on line exams and courses for students in hospital).









My passion for art, museum, design, beauty, fashion and healthcare it was discover in the wonderful Milan. All type of Tourism it is made in Milan, Italy.(next photos)



In every end of the year I make a balance with what I do entire year and what should I do in next year. Now, I am in a working group with head nurses from my hospital to make nursing plans and nursing file for all units. Without help of European School of Oncology and European Oncology Nursing Society, I would not make it what I manage to do. My experience at IEO through 2019 ESO-EONS Clinical Fellowship for Cancer Nurses it was the best professionally experience of my life in beautiful town Milan, amazing Italy and a dream come true!





