

Dr. Maciej

Radiologist and nuclear medicine specialist. Studied at the Medical University of Gdansk (GUMed) where he received his MD in 2000 and in 2006 he presented his PhD thesis. Conducts research into the use of second generation ultrasound contrast mediums in pediatrics and BOLD imaging in magnetic resonance imaging. He works at the Radiological Lab at GUMed where he conducts research and classes for students of programmes delivered in Polish and English.

Piskunowicz

DURATION OF THE SCIEX PROJECT:
1.06.2012 – 30.11.2012

PROJECT:
LEMAN study

Medical University
of Gdansk

PL

CH

Lausanne
University Hospital



What was the objective of your project implemented as part of the SCIEX programme?

The project was a component of a bigger undertaking whose purpose was to evaluate the role of oxygen deficiency in renal parenchyma and autonomic dysregulation in hypertension. As a radiologist I was to evaluate renal parenchyma oxygenation using the BOLD-MRI method (*blood-oxygen-level dependent magnetic resonance imaging*).

What were the outcomes of the project?

My cooperation with two engineers partly changed the methodology of that examination and resulted in developing a semi-automatic programme significantly reducing the risk of various observers, incorrect measurements. Although the project ended in December 2013, I have been describing examination results working remotely. My latest mobility to Lausanne in February 2015 focussed on joint work on a new sodium spectroscopy project. The publications and conference abstracts that I have

already prepared and some more of them submitted for review are not the only outcomes of the project – it also allowed me to meet new people. Staying in touch afterwards, the length of the cooperation period significantly exceeds the length of my stay in Switzerland.

What impact did the fellowship have on your professional and private life?

I was able to observe how research work is conducted in Switzerland (e.g.: organisation of work, relations in a team). This work is long and intense but the working conditions are excellent. When I was going to Switzerland my friend working for a different centre said I should take a bread maker with me as I would have no time to do my shopping – in Switzerland work finishes late on weekdays, on Saturdays everybody writes their scientific papers and on Sundays no shops are open. However, Lausanne and its French way of life turned out to be different from German-speaking cantons – although it is true that I did not have free time. I worked in a hospital from eight to six and there was an hour-long lunch break. Doctors see patients until 3.00PM and then they write articles. But the lunch break is sacred and the huge hospital canteen makes a strong impression.

Private life: I started to drink coffee and to savour dark chocolate. I grew to like Swiss red wine and cheese, especially the variety coming from Gruyères near Lausanne. This list of private benefits is not exhaustive. I failed to learn good French but I became familiar with Switzerland and... for the first time in my life I experienced AMS after having climbed the Jungfrau. My six months in Switzerland made me also realise how very much I was attached to my family and I decided that should I go abroad in the future, I would not do it without my wife and daughter.

If not for the fellowship...

... I would not have met all those people with whom I have been friends ever since. And that's the most important thing.