Two Weeks at HUG with the Colorectal Surgery Team

Experience Report | SGVC Visiting Fellowship

Thanks to the generous support of the Swiss Society for Visceral Surgery (SGVC), I had the opportunity to spend two weeks at the Department of Visceral Surgery at Geneva University Hospitals (HUG), working together with Prof. Frédéric Ris, Prof. Guillaume Meurette and Dre. Lliot.

Looking back, what impressed me most was not only the opportunity to deepen my knowledge in selected fields of colorectal and pelvic floor surgery, but also the remarkable team spirit and collaborative culture I encountered throughout my stay.

From the very beginning, I was welcomed into a team characterised by open communication, mutual respect and a shared commitment to delivering high-quality patient care. The newly established ambulatory surgery centre was a particularly interesting example of how innovative organisational concepts can improve efficiency without compromising quality.

From a surgical perspective, the observership offered valuable insights into specialised areas of coloproctology, including new approaches to anal fistula treatment and complex pelvic floor disorders. I also had the opportunity to observe cytoreductive surgery combined with HIPEC. The close collaboration between the surgical and oncology teams was particularly remarkable. Thanks to thoughtful coordination, even the technically demanding closed HIPEC procedure appeared remarkably smooth.

Another highlight was the stimulating exchange with Prof. Ris regarding future opportunities in colorectal research. Discussing scientific ideas and potential collaborations added an important academic dimension to the fellowship.

I am particularly grateful to Prof. Meurette, whom I had the privilege of accompanying during much of my stay, both in the operating theatre and in his outpatient clinic. Beyond the many valuable discussions on pelvic floor surgery, I was deeply impressed by his calm, attentive and empathetic approach to patients, particularly those suffering from chronic functional disorders. It was a powerful reminder that excellent surgical care is not defined by technical expertise alone, but equally by the ability to listen, build trust and establish a meaningful relationship with our patients.

Finally, a wonderful team dinner offered the opportunity to get to know my colleagues beyond the clinical environment, making the experience even more memorable.

I would like to sincerely thank Prof. Ris, Prof. Meurette and Dr. Lliot, as well as the entire HUG team, for their warm hospitality, openness and willingness to share their expertise.