

**Endourological Society International Traveling Scholarship  
Report, December 2022**

**Name:** Dr. Kazumi Taguchi

**Position:** Assistant Professor, Department of Nephro-urology, Nagoya City University, Nagoya, Japan

**Duration of Visit:** 13th November 2022 to 12th December 2022

**Host Faculty and Institution:** Associate Professor Ben Chew, Director of Clinical Research, Department of Urologic Sciences, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

I would like to thank the staff and members of the Endourological Society, especially the Fellowship Committee and Ms. Paoli, who patiently stayed in touch with me and made this opportunity happen despite all the difficulties during the recent pandemic. Dr. Chew is kind enough to accept my offer and very generous to wait almost two years by guiding me for formalities. I am honored to be given this opportunity to explore academic experience across the ocean in the beautiful city of Vancouver. As an Academic Observership, my purposes for this scholarship were to learn the latest technology and research in minimally invasive endourological surgeries and develop an academic connection with the leaders in top endourological sites. The clinical and research experience at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) was fascinating, with skillful and experienced faculties and fellows, and I could learn a lot from them. My goal for this scholarship was perfectly achieved by the support from Dr. Chew and his stone centre team with numerous fun memories.



Caption) (from left) Dr. Halawani, me, Dr. Chew, and Dr. Koo

I arrived at the airport in Vancouver on November 13th, then Dr. Chew himself picked me up and drove me to show the city and help settle where I stayed. It was a perfect sunny day, unlike usual

Vancouver in November, then my four weeks observership started the next day. I mainly observed the cases at ORs and clinics in VGH. VGH has a stone centre that provides efficient care for kidney stone disease. There were many interesting SWL, URS, and PCNL cases; some were extremely difficult and complicated cases referred from other urologists. Dr. Chew is a great surgeon and mentor; in every procedure, he gave his team brief guidance for the surgical plan and explained each step to me, his fellows, and the residents. Impressively, he knows every detail of each surgical device he uses and takes advantage of their unique features, including flexible ureteroscopes and laser settings. The most exciting findings are the difference and features between Thulium Fiber Laser and MOSES technology, the influences of intrarenal pelvic pressure during URS, and the privilege of IT/network in our practice, including telehealth. In addition to Dr. Chew's case, I could observe some HoLEP and PCNL cases performed by Drs. Paterson and Forbes, other faculties of endourology, who have amazing skills and successful careers. I was also lucky to see a robotic radical prostatectomy supervised and performed by Dr. Black, an oncology fellowship program director.



Caption) with VGH stone centre team

For the research opportunity, I was allowed to meet the research team and have a very productive discussion on both clinical and translational research topics. The latest knowledge and experiences from international collaborative studies were informative, and the discussion regarding in vitro and in vivo study models in urological microbiota was an informative and eye-opening experience for me. Specifically, one research achievement was initiating a connection with Dr. Lange's lab team through a kind introduction by Dr. Chew. We plan to collaborate to investigate the role of the intestinal microbiome on stone formers using two different mouse models and RNA-seq results of each patient cohort. I believe that further research collaboration must be promising to our practice. Other than observership at VGH, I was luckily able to accompany Dr. Chew and his fellows (Dr. Halawani-clinical, Dr. Koo-research) to the masterclass on endoscopic enucleation of the prostate, which was

held in Montreal. It was a great educational and fun trip, and I could even learn enucleation techniques from Prof. Bhojani from the University of Montreal and Prof. Gross from Barmbek Asklepios Hospital (Germany).



Caption: left picture) Dr. Lange's lab team



Caption: right picture) Drs. Bhojani and Gross

### **Acknowledgments**

Once again, I would like to thank the Endourological Society for giving me this great opportunity, even in the difficult era of the pandemic. Of course, the biggest thank to Dr. Chew and his team, including Drs. Lange, Paterson, Forbes, Halawani, and Koo, as well as research assistants Victor and Ricki. They welcomed me as a part of them like family. VGH staff were especially very friendly and supported my journey.

### **Remarks**

Overall, my observership at VGH successfully gained useful knowledge and efficient skills from distinguished mentors like Dr. Chew. This scholarship is definitely one of my best carrier steps; I will contribute to the Endourological Society and practice in Japan for better research and patient care. I wish all members and their families safe and happy in the future.