

Endourological Society International Traveling Scholarship Report August–September 2023

Name: Dr. Chinnakhet Ketsuwan

Position: Assistant Professor, Division of Urology, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Ramathbodi Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand

Host Faculty and Institution: Prof. Khurshid Ridwan Ghani, University of Michigan Department of Urology; Program Director, Michigan Urological Surgery Improvement Collaborative (MUSIC)

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Endourological Society for awarding me this invaluable scholarship. I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated staff and esteemed members of the Endourological Society, with special recognition for the Fellowship Committee and Ms. Paoli, whose unwavering support and efforts made this dream a reality.

The pivotal moment came at midnight on May 9, 2023, when I received a letter from the Endourological Society informing me of my selection as one of the recipients of the International Traveling Scholarship. The sheer joy and excitement I felt that overwhelmed me were so profound that I couldn't sleep. As my lifelong dream had come true, I immediately shared this exciting news with numerous friends.

For my fellowship, I embarked on a transformative journey to the University of Michigan Department of Urology, USA. There I spent four enriching weeks under the expert guidance of Prof. Khurshid Ghani. As part of my academic observership, my goal was to immerse myself in the latest technological advancements and cutting-edge research in minimally invasive endourological surgeries while building academic connections with the field's leaders.



Caption: An Unforgettable Moment with Professor and His Esteemed Team

My time at the University of Michigan was a captivating blend of clinical and research experiences, facilitated by a team of highly skilled and experienced faculty members. Prof. Ghani and his team provided unwavering support, and I am grateful for the numerous enjoyable and cherished memories created during this period.

My journey to Michigan involved nearly 24 hours of flight time, culminating in my arrival on August 20. The warm reception and comfortable accommodation provided eased my transition into the vibrant Ann Arbor town. That day remains etched in my memory as my first in the USA, greeted by a perfect sunny day with a clear blue sky and lush green forests.



Caption: A Delectable Evening at the Professor's Residence

Throughout the scholarship period, I had the privilege of shadowing Prof. Ghani across various departments of the university hospital. My primary focus was observing cases in the operating room, where I witnessed the highest level of care for conditions such as kidney stone disease, upper tract urothelial carcinoma, and renal masses. Prof. Ghani's procedures ranged from fascinating flexible URSL to supine PCNL and robotic partial nephrectomy procedures, some of which presented challenging cases referred by other urologists.

Prof. Ghani was not only a remarkable surgeon but also an exemplary mentor. In every procedure, he provided concise guidance to his team, explaining the surgical plan and walking through each step with me, his medical students, residents, and fellows. His deep familiarity with every surgical device, including flexible ureteroscopy and laser settings, was truly impressive.

Among the highlights of my observership were the insights I gained into the retroperitoneal approach of robotic surgery, the significance of suction in endourological surgery, and the techniques involving thulium fiber laser and MOSES technology—innovations that were entirely new to me. In addition to Prof. Ghani's cases, I also had the privilege of observing HoLEP and PCNL procedures performed by Prof. Thomas Wei and Prof. Casey Daew, both of whom possessed remarkable skills. I was also fortunate to have the opportunity to visit Prof. William Roberts's laboratory. Despite the inherent complexity of topics involving physics, particularly laser technology, pressure dynamics, and heat management, he possesses the unique ability to

elucidate these intricate concepts through a variety of literature sources, making them more accessible and comprehensible.



Caption: One of the best lectures I've ever attended

Every Wednesday, I eagerly participated in the Michigan Urological Surgery Improvement Collaborative (MUSIC) day, attending research meetings at the Arbor Lakes Building. These meetings facilitated productive discussions on a wide range of clinical and translational research topics. MUSIC, which is housed at the University of Michigan, is dedicated to enhancing patient care through data-driven best practices, education, and innovation. This experience ignited my passion, and upon returning to my homeland, I aspire to unite young, active Thai endourologists to enhance endourological patient care in our country by sharing research data and surgical techniques.

Every Friday, I enriched my knowledge by visiting the Brighton Center for Specialty Care, where I immersed myself in the realm of ambulatory surgery, with a particular focus on flexible URSL. I gained valuable insights into ensuring the safety of day case surgery, a goal I intend to implement in my hospital upon my return.

During my stay, I had the privilege of attending a Reed M. Nesbit Urologic Society Meeting, where I attended a keynote lecture delivered by Prof. Steven Nakada. His talks titled “What’s Hot and What’s Not in Stone Disease 2023” and “Leadership in Urology, Is It for You?” were truly inspiring. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to benefit from a valuable talk by Dr. Mohammed Belal, who shared the impactful message of “rising every time we fall.” The meeting was followed by the exhilarating experience of attending a Michigan vs. UNLV football game at the Michigan Stadium, where approximately 100,000 spectators gathered—an unforgettable moment.



Caption: A Cherished Encounter with Prof. Steven Nakada

Once again, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Endourological Society for providing me with this remarkable opportunity. My deepest thanks go to Prof. Ghani and his exceptional team: Dr. Wei, Dr. Daew, and Dr. Roberts, as well as research team members Jenifer and Golena; the active resident, Mahir Maruf; Apoorv Dhir, an intelligent medical student; Leilane Glienke. They welcomed me as one of their own, making me feel like family. The staff at Michigan, in particular, were extremely friendly and supportive throughout my journey.

In conclusion, my observership at Michigan allowed me to acquire valuable knowledge and skills under the mentorship of distinguished individuals such as Dr. Ghani. This scholarship represents a significant milestone in my career, and I am committed to contributing to the Endourological Society and advancing research and patient care in Thailand. I wish all members of the society and their families a future filled with happiness and success.



Caption: Go BLUE!!!