

EUSTAR Fellowship – End of report

Fellow's name: Katya Dolnikov

Host Institution: University Hospital of Zurich

Dates of Fellowship: 01/06/2025 -31/08/2025

Supervisor's name: Prof Oliver Distler

1. What were the key objectives of your EUSTAR Fellowship, and to what extent were they achieved during your placement?

My fellowship aims were to deepen my competence in systemic sclerosis, particularly in interstitial lung disease (ILD) and pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), to gain clinical research skills, and to establish collaborations. These objectives were successfully achieved, exceeding my expectations. Through continuous guidance, I received extensive clinical exposure and became actively involved in research, which will be further developed through ongoing joint work with my hosts.

2. How has the Fellowship contributed to your professional development and future career plans in systemic sclerosis research or clinical practice?

The fellowship enhanced my competence in systemic sclerosis, especially pulmonary complications, and reignited my passion for research. I gained valuable experience integrating research into daily clinical practice. With my mentors we established foundations for ongoing collaborations, shaping both my future clinical work and research trajectory.

3. What were the most valuable aspects of your hosting institution's environment (e.g., supervision, facilities, team integration)?

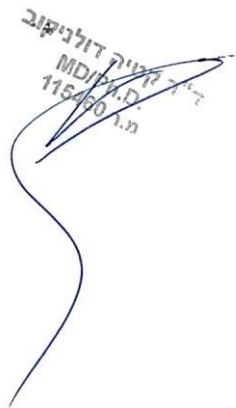
The most valuable aspects were the mentorship and ongoing guidance I received from Dr. Muriel Elhai, Dr. Cosimo Bruni, Prof. Distler and the entire team. Their supervision, openness, and the department's collaborative spirit and advanced facilities created an environment where I could learn, contribute to research, and feel fully integrated.

4. What suggestions do you have for improving the EUSTAR Fellowship scheme for future participants?

In my opinion, the EUSTAR Fellowship format is ideal, offering an excellent opportunity for both early-career practitioners and physicians seeking to deepen their experience and receive research mentorship. I am very grateful to the board for supporting my fellowship and enabling this invaluable professional and personal growth.

Date: 11/09/2025

Signature:



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