



EUSTAR Fellowship Summary Report



Fellow: Nur Filiz Ok

Host Institution: Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, Eustar Centre no: 63

Home Institution: Marmara University School of Medicine, İstanbul, Türkiye, Eustar Centre no: 288

Fellowship period: 01/09/2025 - 28/11/2025

Supervisor: Michaela Koehm

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to EUSTAR for providing me with this invaluable opportunity. After becoming a member of EUSTAR, my first aim was to learn how colleagues in different countries approach the management of systemic sclerosis. With this motivation, I applied for the fellowship program, and I was truly honored when my application was accepted. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Tuncay Duruöz and Dr. Michaela Koehm for their support during this process.

Through the fellowship, I had the privilege of spending three remarkable months at Goethe University Hospital in Germany. During this period, I had the opportunity to focus especially on patients fulfilling the VEDOSS (Very Early Diagnosis of Systemic Sclerosis) criteria. Observing the diagnostic pathways, clinical follow-up protocols, and biomarker-based evaluation strategies for this very early-stage patient group was exceptionally educational and inspiring for me.

I participated in clinical visits and attended multidisciplinary meetings with radiology and pulmonology teams, where I was able to observe collaborative decision-making processes firsthand. In addition to patients with multi-organ involvement due to systemic sclerosis, I also had the chance to see the management of various other rheumatologic diseases. I was particularly impressed by the meticulous follow-up of patients presenting with early signs suggestive of VEDOSS, and I had the opportunity to perform nailfold capillaroscopy as part of their clinical evaluation.

Despite their busy schedules, the team members were always welcoming and supportive. I would like to warmly thank Magdalena Figat, Samantha Ferdinand, Dr. Florian Meier, Maria del Mar Rodriguez Gonzales, Dr. Ann Christin Bel, Matthias Wößner, Dr. Eva Kraimer, Nikolas Hartl, Dr. Nikole Radani, Carolina Kolb for their kindness and collegiality. Under the guidance of Dr. Michaela Koehm and with the support of the entire team, I experienced substantial growth both clinically and academically. This fellowship has provided me with a strong foundation for my future research, particularly in the areas of early diagnosis and risk stratification in systemic sclerosis. I am deeply grateful to Dr. Frank Behrens and Dr. Michaela Koehm for their hospitality, mentorship and the collaborative academic environment they fostered.

This fellowship has been an unforgettable milestone in my career, enriching me both professionally and personally. I believe that such educational exchanges would be highly valuable for younger colleagues, and I would gladly recommend this experience.