

**ESVS Educational Travel Grant Report – University of Strasbourg, Department of Vascular Surgery and Kidney Transplantation, University Hospital of Strasbourg, Gepromed, Strasbourg, France**

My name is Cristina Rocchi and I am currently attending the fifth year of the School of Vascular Surgery of Bologna (Italy). During the last year, courtesy of the ESVS Educational Travel Grant, I had the huge privilege to spend three months (September-November 2023) at the Department of Vascular Surgery and Kidney Transplantation of the University Hospital of Strasbourg (France) and at Gepromed (a non-profit organization in Strasbourg), both directed by the exceptional Prof. Nabil Chakfé.

It was a great opportunity for me. Since the beginning, Prof. Chakfé and his team made me feel at home. As an integral part of the group, I was actively involved in the everyday clinical, surgical and research activities. Thanks to both their open and endovascular surgical activities, I had the possibility to observe and/or assist several cases of thoraco-abdominal and abdominal aortic aneurysm, aortic dissection, mesenteric artery stenosis/occlusion, carotid artery stenosis, peripheral arterial disease, deep and superficial venous pathologies, vascular accesses from the surgical indication to the conventional and/or endovascular treatments, across sizing and planning phases. Furthermore, I found the kidney transplantation that is performed by both conventional and robotic techniques to be extremely interesting. The educational program of simulation at Gepromed is also amazing.

Having had the possibility to interact and work together with relevant professionals characterized by the same interest and passion that I have for surgery and investigation, permitted me to extend my network, improve my skills and to acquire new ones, growing both personally and professionally. Therefore, I would highly recommend this Centre to all young vascular surgeons. Moreover, Strasbourg is an amazing city to live in.

In conclusion, I would like to express my immense gratitude to the European Society for Vascular Surgery and Secretary General Prof. Maarit Venermo for this important opportunity, for the relevance given to the European Vascular Surgeons in Training and for this and other forms of support provided to the education of the next generation of European vascular surgeons. In addition, I would like to acknowledge Prof. Chakfé and all his team for their warm welcome, hospitality, availability, kindness, and for the knowledge shared with me, and to thank Prof. Mauro Gargiulo and Prof. Gianluca Faggioli for all their support, advice, availability and for having made this great and exciting experience possible. It has definitely contributed to reinforcing the links between the two European realities.

I would be glad to answer any questions and to help you with any details regarding my experience in Strasbourg. Please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at [cristina.rocchi3@studio.unibo.it](mailto:cristina.rocchi3@studio.unibo.it).

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