

CHU Pellegrin, Bordeaux
Supervised by Prof. Eric Ducasse, Prof. Xavier Berard

During my three-month experience in the Vascular Surgery Department at CHU Pellegrin, Bordeaux, I had the privilege of working under the guidance of Professors Eric Ducasse and Xavier Berard, alongside Caroline Caradu and Edwin Ripoché. This rotation provided comprehensive exposure to both the clinical and surgical aspects of vascular surgery, allowing me to deepen my knowledge, refine my technical skills, and contribute to patient care in a multidisciplinary environment.

I was involved in the assessment and management of a wide range of vascular conditions, including peripheral arterial disease, carotid artery disease and aortic aneurysms. I had the opportunity to perform and assist in a variety of vascular procedures, ranging from endovascular interventions, such as FEVARs and aortic arch repairs in collaboration with the cardio-thoracic surgeons, to more traditional open surgeries like carotid endarterectomy and open aortic repair. Under the guidance of the senior surgical team, I gained hands-on experience in surgical techniques and the use of advanced technologies and strategies. This time was invaluable in honing my technical skills and understanding the nuances of vascular surgery, especially in high-risk patients. The key highlights, of course, were the extensive aortic repairs performed by the professors in both endovascular and traditional open procedures. The volume of cases at their center is unparalleled.

A truly unique aspect of my time at CHU Pellegrin was witnessing the extraordinary talent and potential of the younger generation of vascular surgeons. Bordeaux has, without a doubt, established itself as the *La Masia* of vascular surgery. In addition to clinical and surgical experiences, I had the opportunity to discuss potential collaborative research initiatives between the Vascular Surgery Department at CHU Pellegrin and the Amsterdam UMC Hospitals. Both institutions are recognized for their expertise in vascular surgery and share common interests in advancing patient care through innovative surgical and imaging techniques.

My three months in the Vascular Surgery Department at CHU Pellegrin, Bordeaux, have been a transformative experience. Under the mentorship of Prof. Ducasse and Prof. Berard, I have gained invaluable clinical and surgical experience that has expanded my knowledge of vascular pathophysiology and treatment. Exposure to a wide range of procedures and patient cases, combined with the collaborative learning environment, has strengthened my desire to pursue a career in vascular surgery. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the department's work and for the guidance I received from the entire team.

This rotation has reinforced the importance of a patient-centered approach in vascular surgery and has highlighted the significance of continuous learning and collaboration in advancing patient outcomes. I look forward to building upon the skills and knowledge I have gained and to furthering my involvement in collaborative efforts with international colleagues, particularly through the promising partnership with Amsterdam UMC. I will also cherish the lasting memories of Bordeaux's culture, which added a unique and enriching dimension to my time in the city. I look forward to coming back.

Finally, I would like to thank the ESVS and the Amsterdam UMC, particularly Dr. Vincent Jongkind and Dr. Arno Wiersema, for their efforts in making this possible.